

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

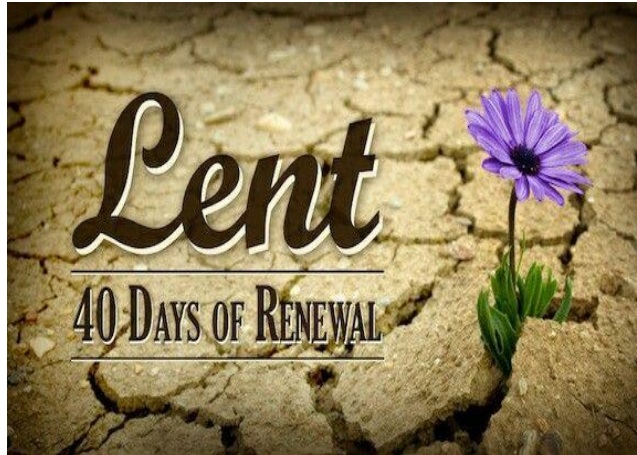
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REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor

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Organist: Kim Bolig

Secretary: Linda Maurer lmaurer56@outlook.com



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 27, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

Oh, to grace how great a debt or daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17: 7-16

The First Reading is from the 17th chapter of 1 Kings.

⁷But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you. ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 127 (Please Read Responsively)

¹Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

²It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

³Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

⁵Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9: 24-28

The Second Reading is from the 9th chapter of Hebrews.

²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Mark 12: 38-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." ⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON: "Widow and the Oil"

HYMN: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the head.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Response to: "Merciful God," **receive our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

SENDING

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL at all Salem functions. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free to do so, **but it is not a requirement.** **Social distancing will still be observed** and we will continue to receive Communion in our seats using the Worship Bags. Additional seating remains available in the basement where the Service can be viewed via video live stream. The Service will continue to be available on Salem's website.

NEWSLETTERS: **If you've been receiving your newsletters via email, but would prefer to receive a paper copy, please sign your name on the clipboard** sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary or contact Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) **by March 29th** . The **Congregational Mailboxes will again be opened for use** and all paper newsletters will be delivered there. **Newsletters will continue to be emailed to those who wish to receive them digitally.** Our shut-ins will continue to receive newsletters through the postal service.

TODAY is the deadline for the April newsletter. Please give all items you wish to have included in the newsletter to Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) by the deadline. Thank you!

College Students & Military: Please remember to donate toward gift cards for our college students and military personnel. We will be sending Easter cards to them and including gift cards. With the rising cost of postage, this is the most cost-effective way to let them know their Salem Family is thinking about and praying for them. Donation cans are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, on top of the sound system and on the front table in the downstairs social room. **Please remember to donate SOON!**

Easter Food Baskets for families in need are available through SACC. If you know someone who will benefit from having a food basket this Easter, please contact Judy Kuhn (jkuhn@ptd.net) or Ricky Bower (dturtlesracing3@verizon.net) with the following information: Name, phone number, number of adults, number of children (& their ages). **The deadline to submit names is March 30th.**

Lent Bible Study – Join us on **Wednesdays at 1:00 pm** during the season of Lent, as we dive into Scripture. *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study of Unsteady Times*. Together we will explore 6 stories of Jesus as he walks toward Jerusalem in an uncertain world, not so different from our own. Question? Please contact Pastor Stina.

The **Ladies' WELCA Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 pm in the church basement. ALL Ladies of the church are invited to attend.

The **Easter Ham & Egg Breakfast is back!** Breakfast will be served in the church basement at approximately **7:45 am**, following the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. If you will be attending, please complete the sign-up slip found in the bulletins and place it in the offering plate at the back of the church.



“The **Easter Egg Hunt is back IN-PERSON!** The Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Morning following the breakfast, starting at 9:30 am. We will be asking you to please RSVP so we know how many kiddos will be hunting this year! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Stina or myself. Thank you!”

~ Jessica Moyer

Prayer Chain – Please contact Elaine and Charlie Benner with all Prayer Chain requests – ceben58@ptd.net

Easter Flowers – Something New! This year, we are asking the congregation to help decorate the sanctuary. You can purchase flowers or gather some from your garden and place them in the sanctuary on Easter morning. After the service, you may take them home and enjoy them. They can be any type of flowers – they do not have to be tulips or lilies. If you would like to purchase flowers, but won't be able to get them, please contact Donna Moyer (dowimoyer56@gmail.com) and they will be purchased and placed in the church. Don't forget, if you are placing them in honor of someone, please let Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) know so it can be noted in the bulletin. Thank you and hopefully we will have a beautiful selection!



~ Donna Moyer



FUNDRAISER AT HOSS'! Enjoy a meal and help support Salem Church at the same time! Enjoy a meal at *Hoss'* on **Thursday, April 21st**. Tickets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Proceeds received depend on the total amount of meals purchased all day (**eat-in or take-out**), so be sure to invite friends and family and be sure to pick-up tickets for them.

Adult Sunday School is held every Sunday morning in the church basement from 9:30 – 10:00 am. Join us as we open the Scriptures and learn with, and from, one another!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Worship – 10:30 am
Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:00 pm
Friday, April 15 – Good Friday Worship – 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday -
 Sunrise Service w/Communion – 6:45 am
 Ham & Egg Breakfast – 7:45 am (basement)
 Easter Egg Hunt – 9:30 am
 Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am
 Worship w/Communion – 10:30 am

REMEMBER OUR LENT PROJECT !

Our “Flood Buckets” are filling-up with practical items to help with clean-up. They will be given to families who have experienced major flooding. Each bucket costs approximately \$50 to fill. We are buying the contents in bulk to save money and because the items in the buckets are very specific as to type and size.

Can we meet Salem Council’s challenge to raise enough money to fill at least 25 buckets??

**Donation buckets can be found at the back of the sanctuary
or you can mail-in your donation.**

BUCKETS & LIDS:

We are still collecting clean 5-gallon buckets with lids. If you can donate buckets, please let a Council member or Pastor Stina know.

