

Salem February 16

6th Sunday after Epiphany

RADIO WELCOME

Good Morning. Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church. We welcome all of you to worship today, especially those of you who are visiting, or are worshipping with us on Big Dog radio 98.9, KHUB 1340, or viewing on Spectrum cable. Please join us for coffee and fellowship following the service today.

This morning we welcome Jeremy Murman at the piano and we thank him for sharing his musical talents with us today.

Today is also a special Sunday as I am sure you have noticed a group of young people joining us in worship. Today is Scout Sunday and members of our Scout Troop will be participating in worship, and Don Godfrey will be sharing the message today.

During this season of Epiphany, we remember the forgiveness we receive through Christ. We pause to give thanks for new life, new breath, and new hope found in our Savior Jesus. We hope and pray that your time here this morning fills you with this new hope for your week to come.

At this time I invite our scouts to post the colors.

POSTING OF THE COLORS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good, but we have looked
to other lights to find our way. We have not been just
in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge
over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of
walking humbly with you. With what shall we come
before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your
salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit
that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of
Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; ✝ your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

OPENING SONG - *Draw Me Close to You* (BOTB 47)

**Draw me close to You;
Never let me go,
I lay it all down again,
To hear you say that I'm your friend.**

**You are my desire;
No one else will do,
'cause nothing else could take your place,
To feel the warmth of your embrace.**

**Help me find the way.
Bring me back to you.**

**You're all I want;
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want;
Help me know you are near.**

**You're all I want;
You're all I've ever needed.**

**You're all I want;
Help me know you are near.**

Help me know you are near.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE *Above All* (BOTB 9)

**Above all powers,
Above all kings
Above all nature
And all created things;**

**Above all wisdom
And all the ways of man.
You were there
Before the world began.**

**Above all kingdoms,
Above all thrones.
Above all wonders
The world has ever known;**

**Above all wealth
And treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure
What you're worth.**

**Crucified,
Laid behind the stone;
You lived to die,
Rejected and alone.**

Like a rose

**Trampled on the ground,
You took the fall
And thought of me.
Above all.**

**SONG OF PRAISE *I Love You Lord* (BOTB 107)
(sing twice)**

**I love you Lord,
And I lift my voice,
To worship you,
O my soul, Rejoice.**

**Take joy, my King,
In what you hear.
May it be sweet, sweet, sound
In your ear.**

**I love you Lord,
And I lift my voice,
To worship you,
O my soul, Rejoice.**

**Take joy, my King,
In what you hear.
May it be sweet, sweet, sound
In your ear.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(Read by Scouts)

The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am

commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:1-8 (spoken)

(Read by Scouts)

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²**Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

⁴**You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

(Read by Scouts)

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SPEAK O LORD, VS. 1)

**Speak O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.**

**Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the Light of Christ Might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.**

Speak O Lord, and fulfill in us All Your purposes for Your glory.

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the

vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM – "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON – DON GODFREY

SONG OF THE DAY *Will You Let me be Your Servant* (ELW 659)



1	Will	you	let	me	be	your	ser - vant,	let	me	be	as
2	We	are	pil - grims	on	a	jour - ney,	we	are	trav - 'lers		
3	I	will	hold	the	Christ - light	for	you	in	the	night - time	
4	I	will	weep	when	you	are	weep - ing;	when	you	laugh	I'll
5	Will	you	let	me	be	your	ser - vant,	let	me	be	as



Christ	to	you?	Pray	that	I	may	have	the	grace	to
on	the	road;	we	are	here	to	help	each	oth - er	
of	your	fear;	I	will	hold	my	hand	out	to	you,
laugh	with	you.	I	will	share	your	joy	and	sor - row	
Christ	to	you?	Pray	that	I	may	have	the	grace	to



let	you	be	my	ser	-	vant,	too.
walk	the	mile	and	bear		the	load.
speak	the	peace	you	long		to	hear.
till	we've	seen	this	jour	-	ney	through.
let	you	be	my	ser	-	vant,	too.

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

TIME OF PRAYER

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Today we pray for our brothers and sisters at Salem Lutheran Church. Lead your church into ever closer relationship with you. Lord we know that heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of justice. Today we lift up before you...

Are there others for whom we should pray?

God of growth, you nurture this community. Cultivate in us a spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share. Bless the efforts of the scouts who have joined us this day and their leaders as they continue to serve in our community. God of our ancestors, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love. Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

For your many blessings Lord,
we give you thanks and Praise.

For all these things and those unspoken,
we are thankful Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING *More Precious than Silver* (BOTB 161)

**Lord, You are
More Precious than silver.
Lord, You are
More costly than gold.
Lord, You are
More beautiful than diamonds.
And nothing I desire
Compares with you.**

**Lord, You are
More Precious than silver.
Lord, You are
More costly than gold.**

**Lord, You are
More beautiful than diamonds.
And nothing I desire
Compares with you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of wonder, you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

COMMUNION

VIDEO DURING COMMUNION

"At This Table" by Idina Menzel

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitten tree ends on March 2nd, so please remember to bring your mittens and scarves on one of the next two Sundays.

Lent will begin on February 26th and we will once again have a churchwide devotion series available. This year the devotion is based on the hymn "Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross." Copies of the devotion are available in the narthex. You can also sign up to receive these via email if you would like.

Our prayers of thankfulness each week come from you, so please take a few moments to write a prayer of thankfulness on a card and slide it in the slot in the box in the lobby.

BLESSING

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain
 Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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