

## **Salem Sunday, March 15, 2020**

Third Sunday in Lent

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **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.

If you are visiting with us today, we want you to know that you are welcome and we are glad you are here. Please take one of our white welcome bags from the stand in the back home with you today. At this time, we invite everyone to take a moment to fill out the attendance pads in the pews and pass them along to your neighbors as well.

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

During this season of Lent, we pause to reflect, knowing that our sin led Jesus to the cross. We treasure the gift of our Savior, and love so great that would suffer such pain for us, but during this season we pause to remember that he suffered for us. We needed this because we are broken people, dependent on an amazing, gracious God.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who is present, who gives life,  
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

**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 here.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

A reading from Exodus.

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM (SPOKEN): Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's  
pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup>**"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the  
desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my  
works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not  
know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger,  
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

A reading from Romans.

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces

character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. 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: John 4:5-42**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on



this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

<sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

<sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that

we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

### 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**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill *especially...*

Are there others for whom we should pray?

God of living water, today we lift up all who are ill or suffering in our community. Grant peace and comfort to those isolated and quarantined at this time, provide friends

and neighbors to help meet their needs, and grant resources to those who work tirelessly to prevent the further spread of this illness. Help us all to be good neighbors, to do our part for those who are weak and in need around us, and to show love and grace. Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace. God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation. According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through 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.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **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 our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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**

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.  
Open yourselves to receive it.

### **VIDEO DURING COMMUNION**

"At This Table" by Idina Menzel

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✝ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **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. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.