

**Salem Lutheran Church ~ March 15, 2020
Third Sunday in Lent ~ Service of the Word ~ John 4:5-42**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ PSALM 95

¹Come, let us sing | to the Lord;

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

²**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.**

³For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**

⁷For 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!

⁸**"Harden | not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at
Massah | in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my
ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore | in my anger,
'They shall never come | to my rest.'"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (Read at your leisure)

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11 (Read at your leisure)

GOSPEL LITANY

The word is near you / **on your lips and in your heart.**

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord / **and believe in your
heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**
Faith comes from what is heard / **and what is heard comes through
the word of Christ.**

GOSPEL; John 4:5-42

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

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,
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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has
become new!** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Let us Pray,
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us grace, mercy and the forgiveness, of all our sins. **Amen**

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not advisable. When we must be apart for reason of safety and to show care and love toward one another and the community in which we live and serve. We trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us to connect as we are able, reach out to our neighbors in need and to be vigilant in prayer.

Lord we pray for our siblings who work in the medical fields, research labs, in nursing homes, the center for disease control and the world health organization. Lead them with your wisdom and directing their paths.

Calm and comfort children who are fearful from all they hear and see around them. Console parents as they balance work and family, finding childcare and financial uncertainty.

Guide leaders of our nation and in the world with your wisdom as they make decisions for the good of our communities.

We pray for worship centers and their ministries, all who travel, who grieve the loss of loved ones, those who are recovering, those who are ill, and feeling lost or isolated.

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. Be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Grant us courage and deepened faith to face the future with hope and dreams of a new dawn through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. God of mercy **Hear our prayer**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing. **Amen**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen** *(Romans 15)*

DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to love, care, and serve as faithful and beloved children of God. **Thanks be to God.** And all God's people say: **Amen**