

Salem Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 ~ 410.692.6803

www.Salemjarrettsville.org

Pastor Betty Lou's Mobile Phone ~ 443.465.6668

MARCH 27th, 2022 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

GATHERING & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

from hymn ELW 527

Congregation reads the bold print

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;

our hearts in true devotion bow

Your Spirit send with light divine,

and let your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing your praise in

Endless hymns through all our days;

Increase our faith and light our minds;

And set us free from doubt that blinds.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 32

Congregation reads the bold

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my
guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they
shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should
go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not
stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He

would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The Holy Gospel given to you. **Praise to you, O Christ**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
ELW 807 vs 1 & 3

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry 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 debtor
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.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Tune Name: Nettleton Public Domain

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**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PEACE

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

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.

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic,
and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

We give thanks to Cathy Hoefler and the choir for leading us in music.

Sunday January 2, 2022 through May 29th – Worship Service Time begins at 10:00am. June we reset to 9:00am worship service time.

Community Fundraiser for Ukraine Relief – William Watters UMC and Salem are offering a Potluck Dinner & Program with a Hymn Sing next Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 6:00PM. Please join us for this evening event as we seek to help our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Location of the event is at Williams Watters UMC.

FCCAU is sponsoring a Designer Bag Bingo Event to benefit the Welcome One Homeless Shelter in Belcamp on Friday, April 29th, at 7 pm, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Bel Air. Cost of tickets is \$20. For details and/or tickets please see Cathy by April 12th. Thank you!

ELCA Disaster Fund for Eastern Europe / Ukraine – If interested, a link follows to the ELCA Disaster Fund. 100% of the donations will be used to provide support for those impacted by conflict in the region.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Eastern-Europe-Crisis-Response>.

You can give online or if you prefer, the bulletin insert may be used to mail a donation to the ELCA Disaster Eastern Europe Crisis Response.

Easter Lilies on sale for \$9.00 per plant. See Mike Whitacre to place and order.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service – April 14, 2022 at 7:00PM

Good Friday Fish Fry – April 15th Sign up flier is in Narthex or See Lynn Cox for more information.

Good Friday Worship Service follows the Fish Fry Meal at 7:00PM

This year's Lenten Project is providing Beehives for our global neighbors. Check out the display in the Narthex. Beehives are \$20.

Lent – ELCA 40 Days of Giving is a personal devotion and includes a calendar of readings and suggested activities for anyone wishing to participate in an additional way. Materials located in Narthex on lamp table by the sofa.

Coffee Hour Desserts Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Thank you for blessing the fellowship table with your special treats!

Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries? Check out Salem's website

Want to spread encouragement? Let's send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside **C/O Charles Phoebus.**
1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 220B Belcamp, MD 21017

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Barbara Sobieck, Janice Houck, Laurie Krieger, Sarah Mack, John Smith, John Knot, Almarie Lanuly, Russ Getz, Judy Newsome, Leila Roland, Donna Miller, Christina Miller & baby Cain, Charlie Phoebus, Nick Cox, Carol Miller, Denny Blauer, Brenda Jimenez, Kathryn Christy, April Moyer, Cari Herrera, David Roche, Layne Bortmes, Tom Ritten, Dominic Cardone, Richard Newsome, Caitlin Taylor, Robert Vazquez, Paul Foutz, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, baby Diana, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Brenda Baker, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Lisa Barwick, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikani, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.

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