

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4873 Cleveland Road

Wooster, Ohio 44691



*Building Faith by Praying for God's Guidance, Hearing God's Word,
Sharing God's Grace, Serving God's Children*

MINISTERS: The People of Salem

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4th Sunday of Epiphany

January 28, 2024

In Our Prayers: Shirley Delefave, George Wise, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Noreen Miller, Patti Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Marian Martin, Jean Shoup, Mike Ringgenberg, Beverly Cleverly, Zane Cleverly, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Lynne, Family of Mike Brown, Family of Charlie Raudebaugh, Family of Gary Kennedy, Family of Triton Fritz, Family of Sharon Salmons, Family of Zachary, Family of Andy, Family of Erin Cronick, Family of Barbara Coulter, Family of Evelyn Weiser, Family of Pete Blunt.

Welcome Visitors! Your presence is a blessing to us. Please pick up an information brochure, complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

Parents with small children: We welcome you and your children to worship this morning. There are activity bags in the Narthex. The nursery is available (with speaker system) should you have need of it.

Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month; we practice open table fellowship: All baptized Christians who share our belief that Jesus Christ is truly present with his body and blood along with the bread and wine, are invited to participate. Register using the card in the back of the pews. You are welcome to join us by coming up front and receiving the host and wine during our communion service. We are also making available sealed and disposable packets containing wine and a wafer. If you choose to utilize these packets, please pick one up as you enter the sanctuary.

P: Pastor / Lay Leader A: Assisting minister C: **Congregation** L: Lector

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Prelude

Bell
Call to Worship
Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: **Amen**

WE PRAISE GOD

Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Red Hymnal Page 213

Canticle of Praise

Glory to God

Red Hymnal Page 213

Prayer of the Day

A: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

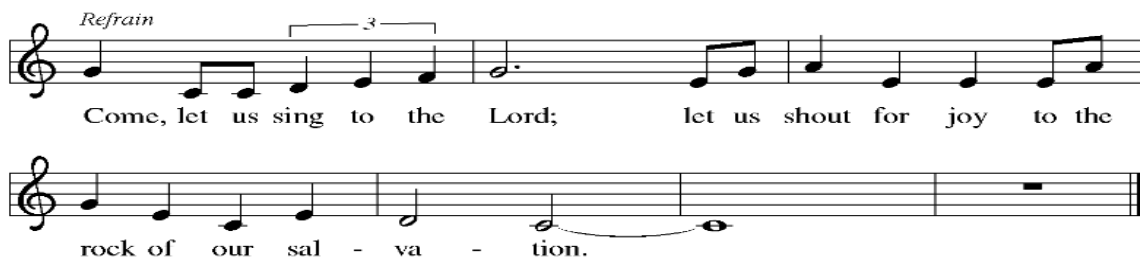
[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among

their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

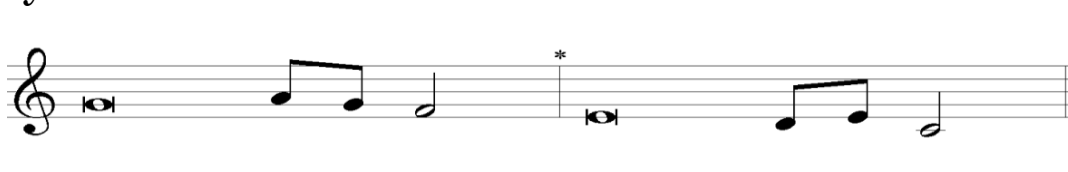
Psalmody

Refrain



Psalmody

Tone



Psalm 111

K: ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

C: ²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

K: ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

C: ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. R**

K: ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

C: ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

K: ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

C: ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity. R**

K: ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your
cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

C: ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's
praise en- | dures forever. R**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Red Hymnal Page 216

Please stand.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new

teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Red Hymnal #310

Apostles’ Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the Apostles’ Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 of the Church

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

C: **#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by guitar)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

A: Prayers continue... Hear us, O God...

C: **#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by guitar)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

A: Prayers continue... Hear us, O God...

C: **#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by guitar)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

WE OFFER GOD OUR GIFTS

Offering of Gifts

Offertory

Tim Mann & Amanda Herbert

Please stand.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Red Hymnal #186

Offering prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal #513

P: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come
they 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

**WE ARE BLESSED AND SENT FORTH
TO SERVE GOD'S CHILDREN**

Please stand.

Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

Red Hymnal #434

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Tim Mann

Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 28th

4th Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Special SOUPER Fellowship Meal

12:00 p.m. Council meeting

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of Livestream Service

ORGANIST: Tim Mann

Monday, January 29th

Monday Meal and Evening Bible Study

6:00 p.m.

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday February 4th

5th Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

5:00 p.m. YouTube replay of Livestream Service

ORGANIST: Sandy Smith

Monday, February 05th

Monday Meal and Movie Night at Salem Bible Study

6:00 p.m.



Pastoral Concerns – Tim Barrage is available to the members of Salem in times of Pastoral concerns or emergencies. He can be reached at 330-465-5763.

Monthly Worship: Avenue at Wooster Care and Rehabilitation Center, 1700 E. Smithville Western Road, Wooster, OH 44691. Services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month – our next service will be held **TODAY - 2:00 p.m.** If you would be willing to help with this service, please contact Barbara Buchwalter @ 330-317-7906.

Women of Faith has a Facebook group called “Women of Salem.” If anyone is interested in meeting for brunch at Buehler’s Towne Market at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month, please let us know. <http://www.facebook.com/WomenOfSalem>

ELCA World Hunger - All loose change in the offering plate will go toward this special social ministry project.

Worship Lay Assistants Needed: As we return to services in the sanctuary, we will need help in continuing our online as well as our in-house service. Consider being a part of this ministry. If you have never performed any of these duties before, we will be happy to show you the ropes. If you have a beautiful voice or are musically inclined, please let us know.

Continuing Live Stream Services: Our goal is to continue the livestream services. Please consider supporting this livestream ministry with a designated gift by marking “livestream” on your offering envelope. For us to be able to fully utilize this technology we continue to invest in additional tools and higher end cameras. This ministry is grateful for the support, consideration and generosity.

Special Fellowship Meal TODAY*! Special Fellowship Meal! Bring your favorite recipe or dessert item to share.

Monday Meal and Movie night at the Salem Theater*: Monday evenings we are serving a community meal in our fellowship hall followed by bible study. Join us as we share Christ with our community and watch *The Chosen* together and discuss each episode in detail.

*Invite friends or neighbors to one of our special events with the provided post card invites. Fill out their name, add a personal note, and drop in the mail. We can mail it if you drop them in the offering plate.

