**Salem Lutheran Church, Mahtowa**

**Sunday January 31, 2021**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

**Welcome to Salem. We are grateful to God you are here.**

*We pray that you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community, and we look forward to seeing you again!*

**Welcome** **& Announcements**

*Tithes and Offerings – Give online through our website or drop off on Mondays between 3 and 6pm in the office*

Thank You All for your faithful giving!

**Opening Words of Faith**

Pastor: God is awe-inspiring, more wondrous than the depths of space,
**All: God is the Creator of the Universe, beyond our understanding.**
P: God is Almighty, powerful and amazing,
**All: And God is also in the stillness, the Spirit moving in the breeze.**
P: God is far beyond our comprehension,

**All: Yet God knows each of us, and God is made known to us.**
P: We worship God, though we do notfully understand now,
**All: We know that God is still being revealed to us, through us, and in us.**
P: God is here, among us now, wherever we are gathered.
**All: Listen to the movement of the Spirit, and follow Christ our Lord.**

**Opening Words of Confession and Forgiveness**

 **All: Almighty One, we confess that we have placed limits on You. O Lord forgive us, our human, faulty selves, for not listening to You, for not comprehending, for not simply sitting in Wisdom’s understanding and contemplating Your teaching. Forgive our selfish impulses to try to reign You in and put harmful limitations on others. Call us into Your deeper ways of understanding, and may we truly love one another and love You, for this is what You have commanded. In the name of Wisdom, in the name of Jesus, in the name of the Spirit among us, we pray all things.**

Pastor: “Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude; it does not insist on its own way. Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes “Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” Love is with us, always, for God is love. That love has no boundaries or borders, no limits. God’s love is within you, now. You are forgiven all of your sins; not of your own merit or deeds. You are beloved of God, so much so that Jesus came and showed us the way, the truth, and the life. Go into the world with the grace of God, and share God’s love. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

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**Sharing of Peace**

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **All: And also, with you**

*Turn to your neighbors and share God's gift of peace safely*

 **Song of Contemplation**

 **Children’s Time**

 **Joys and Concerns**

 **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 into hell\*. 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**

**Prayers of the People:** Prayer Petitions will end with**Lord in your mercy,**  Congregation responds, **“Hear our Prayer”**

 **Holy Communion**

 **Words of Institution**

 **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**

 **Invitation to Communion**

 *All are welcome at the Lord’s Table. No exceptions! You’ll receive the wafer (gluten free wafers are available at the entrance) and grape juice in prepackaged cups. Peal the cellophane back to get the wafer out-which is on top. Peel the second layer off to access the grape juice.*

**Communion blessing**

**Hymn of the Day**

**Psalm 111** (Read Responsively)

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

1Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
 2**Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who de-light in them.**
 3Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.
 4**You cause your wonders to be remembered;** **you are gracious and full of compassion.**
 5You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.
 6**You have shown your people the power of your works**
  **in giving them the lands of the nations.**
 7The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.
 8**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**
 9You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.
 10**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;**
**all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

**Gospel Acclamation** “*This is the Day”*

**Gospel of the Lord: Luke 6:1-16**

**The Question about the Sabbath**

**6**One Sabbath while Jesus was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. **2**But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” **3**Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4**He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?” **5**Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.”

**The Man with a Withered Hand**

**6**On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. **7**The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. **8**Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” He got up and stood there. **9**Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” **10**After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. **11**But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

**Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles**

**12** Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. **13**And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: **14**Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, **15**and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, **16**and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to You, O Christ**

**Sermon** Pastor Suzy Van Norman

**Sending Blessing Sending Hymn**

**Sending Words: Go in peace. Share the good news.**

 **And have fun doing it! Alleluia. Alleluia!**

 ***Have a Great week! God Loves you and so do I…***



**See you Again next week!**

**Salem Lutheran Church**

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