



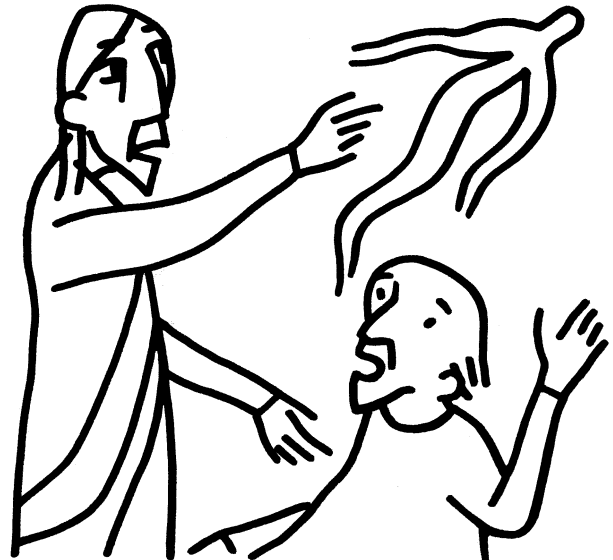
# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after Epiphany*

*February 7,  
2021  
9:30 AM*



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YouTube – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Gathering

*We invite you to read these readings for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany as you prepare for worship.*

## **Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

## **Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

The LORD re- builds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.

The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

who covers the heavens with clouds

and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

God provides food for the cattle

and for the young ravens when they cry.

God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love.

Hallelujah!

## **1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## **GATHERING MUSIC     Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

*Because of the pandemic, it is not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to “sing” silently in your head as the music is played.*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.**

**I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.**

**How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.**

**And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.**

**God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.**

**And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;**

**but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.**

**You are forever mine. We are forever thine.**

**You are forever mine. We are forever thine.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.**

**And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.**

**And like a flood God's mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**unending love, amazing grace, unending love, amazing grace.**

*CCLI Song # 4768151*

*Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio*

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*Performed by the Reverend Marjo Anderson*

## **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!**

## **PRAYER**

God of power and love, we come to you to find shalom – peace and wholeness.

Heal our bodies, encouraging us to treat them as the irreplaceable gifts they are.

Heal our hearts, taking away the weight of depression and the stress of anxiety.

Heal our minds, opening them from narrow judgment to wide acceptance.

Heal our souls, drawing us ever closer to you.

We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. **Amen**

# Word

## Mark 1:29-39

As soon as [*Jesus and the disciples*] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you". He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do". And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Word of God! Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

*Because of the pandemic, it is not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to "sing" silently in your head as the music is played.*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

*CCLI Song # 5562882*

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*Performed by the Reverend Marjo Anderson*

## SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations,  
let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*Individual worshipers are invited to offer the petitions as so moved by the Spirit.*

Let us pray for the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness,  
for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry,  
for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, for our mission partners,  
especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre;  
and for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating their birthdays this week:  
Kerry Schulz, Bill Winter, and Michael Gulyas.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops,  
for cattle and the rainwater they drink,  
for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries;  
for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations,  
that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor,  
for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt,  
for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness,  
for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, especially  
Andrea, Audry, Barbara, Bud, Jerry, David, Diane, Dolores, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana,  
Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for this congregation: for parish nurses and ministries of companionship & support,  
and for people related to this congregation  
who are different from us in race, class, culture, and religious traditions  
and who you use to open us to deeper understandings.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who were called by name & now rest from their labors,  
let us pray that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.*

*The pastor concludes:*

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent,  
for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior & Lord. **Amen**

# Thanksgiving

## OFFERING PRAYER & OFFERING

The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace — it is a Christ-like thing.



**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

## Meal

### COMMUNION

God be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Open your hearts!  
**We open them to God and one another!**

Let us give thanks to the God of all!  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.  
**Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen**

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING SONG

### Jesus Lifted Me

*Because of the pandemic, it is not safe to sing out loud,  
but we invite you to JOIN IN THE MOTIONS  
and “sing” silently in your head as the music is played.*

1. I'm so glad,  
Jesus  
lifted  
me. *[clap on off-beats]  
[make cross with index finger]  
[raise arms]  
[higher]*

I'm so glad,  
Jesus  
lifted  
me. *[clap on off-beats]  
[make cross with index finger]  
[raise arms]  
[higher]*

I'm so glad,  
Jesus  
lifted  
me. *[clap on off-beats]  
[make cross with index finger]  
[raise arms]  
[higher]*

Singing “Glory! Hallelujah!”  
Jesus  
lifted  
me. *[raise arms, palms in, shake]  
[make cross with index finger]  
[raise arms]  
[higher]*

2. When I was afraid....

3. I can share the news....

4. I'm so glad....

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let Christ cast out your demons that you may have abundant life!

Thanks be to God!



# Announcements

**Today at 9:30** we will have the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting with Opening Devotions and Closing Prayer in place of our normal worship service. You may attend in person or via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81678003895?pwd=K2N3enRwdUJjbUFtdjh4cjM2WEF4UT09>  
Meeting ID: 816 7800 3895 Passcode: 173058  
One tap mobile +19292056099,,81678003895# US (New York)

**Wednesday at 12:00 noon Prayer Gathering at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>

Meeting ID: 828 8277 7326 Passcode: 688740

One tap mobile +13017158592,,82882777326# US (Washington DC)

Want to know how to pray? Want to see how prayer can change your life? Need prayer? Then join us each **Wednesday** on zoom at **noon** for a half-hour as we pray for each other's and the world's needs.

**This Saturday** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month) **at 8:00 is our Salem and Friends Prayer Gathering & Take-out Breakfast**, sponsored by the Salem Men. After our usual interesting discussion and prayer, we'll be continuing our clean out of the building in preparation for the sale of our property. Prepackaged snacks and coffee will be available outside.

## Lent 2021

**Ash Wednesday – 7:30 pm February 17** – worship on zoom for area Lutheran churches.

**Midweek Series – Lenten Adventures in Prayer** – on zoom for area Lutheran churches

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89939840751?pwd=amlvTnJIU1c5MWUOFozcUtTVnJuQT09>

### Wednesdays at 7:30 pm or Thursdays at 10:30 am

Week 1 (**Feb 24/25**) – The **Y** is for WHY Pray?

Week 2 (**March 3/4**) – The **P** is for PAUSE!

Week 3 (**Mar 10/11**) – The **R** is for REJOICE!

Week 4 (**Mar 17/18**) – The **A** is for ASK!

Week 5 (**Mar 24/25**) – The **Y** is for YIELD!

**Maundy Thursday – 7:30 pm April 1<sup>st</sup>** – most likely we'll have a drive-in worship for area Lutheran churches held at Our Saviour's Church, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield,

**Inner-View Chat'n'Chew** meets the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (02/20/21) at 11:00 on Zoom**. It's a time of fun and fellowship that gives us a chance to celebrate the gift that God has given us in one another. Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

**The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Raising the BAR: Becoming Anti-Racist series continues on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month from 7:30 to 8:15 pm.**

You can register on their [website](https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) –

<https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - and join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, and continue to engage in anti-racist work.

**Connecticut residents over 75** can now begin making appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Over the coming weeks, Phase 1b will expand to include those over 65, those with underlying conditions, and frontline essential workers. For more information [click here](#).

**Upcoming Worship** – Depending on how today’s in-person meeting goes, how diligent everyone is, and what the current covid rates are, we may be able to have in-person worship once or twice a month, with zoom or pre-recorded services on the intervening weeks. No matter how we worship, we’ll stream to Facebook Live and post to our YouTube channel. *Salem members, if you are not able to join us online from your home, please contact either me or our parish nurse so we might facilitate your participation.* Perhaps we can loan you a digital tablet and teach you to use it, or provide a place for you to safely watch our service outside your home. No matter how we worship, we’ll stream to Facebook Live and post to our YouTube channel.

**There are many ways to find the zoom link for worship and all other Salem events.** The most reliable way is to go to our website - [www.salembridgeport.org](http://www.salembridgeport.org), choose the Resource tab, and click on Calendar. Then on the calendar, go to the day, the event, and when you click on it, it will open up the zoom invitation. You can click on the link, or copy and paste it into your browser. To see how to do this, [click here](#):

We also include the zoom links in our weekly email blasts, and in this announcement section of our Sunday bulletin. You can find links to Sunday worship materials like the bulletin, sermon, and donate page at [www.salembridgeport.org/live](http://www.salembridgeport.org/live). Or to see how to get there, [click here](#):

**Every single one of us would no doubt like to go back to the way we used to worship** pre-pandemic, but sadly that is not a possibility for now. God is GOOD, however, and has provided so many other ways for us to worship. Even if we get to Phase 3, there are those in our church family who due to health concerns are not able to gather with us indoors and have requested that we have zoom services sometimes. When the weather is too cold or when the roads are too snowy, or if we are in Phase 1 or 2, or if someone worshipping tests positive for Covid and we need to self-quarantine, we’ll be worshipping via zoom. When the pastor is on vacation or on other special days, there will be pre-recorded services on Facebook and YouTube. While each one of us has our preferences, remember that we are a community in Christ who loves and looks out for one another. When we’re worshipping your favorite way give thanks! And when we’re worshipping in someone else’s favorite way, give thanks for that, too!

**Technology have you stumped?** If you’d like some (VERY BASIC!) technology help – like accessing zoom on your iPhone, tablet, or pc, or downloading and using the Venmo or Cash app, or anything else, please speak with Pastor Marjo or call or email Karl.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, Pastor Marjo and Salem’s Office Manager, Karl, work primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely. Even though we must operate differently in these times, if we can help in any way, please know that you can still call Salem’s church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.

**Online Worship** – Online worship is here to stay. Far more people participate in our worship online than come to worship on our property or even join us on zoom. In fact, up to 8 times as many as those gathered physically watch the entire service online, and many weeks we have over a thousand people who at least watch some of it! So no matter what format we use for worship in the future, we plan to stream via Facebook Live. Where the service is pre-recorded in the sanctuary it will also be streamed on YouTube. If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays, video worship services will be saved to Facebook and also posted on YouTube so you can watch them later. Closed Captioning will be provided when available. For help turning on Captioning contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.

**Did you enjoy The Best of Lucia?** We're happy to provide other special online worship experiences if you have old VHS tapes or DVDs or other video recordings of the Salem Choir to share. Or maybe you have an old reel-to-reel or 8-track or cassette audio recording. Did you ever film the choir with your phone? Or what about recordings of our children's musical productions? We'd love to build up a digital library of Salem's musical treasures. Since singing increases significantly the amount and projection of the aerosols we produce when we breathe or speak, in-person singing is a high-risk activity which we cannot in good conscience allow for the duration of the pandemic, but we would dearly love to enjoy music in other ways. If you have any such recordings, please contact our Office Manager Karl by emailing him ( salemsec123@sbcglobal.net ) or calling the church and leaving a message ( 203-336-3300 ). We will figure out how to convert and copy your recordings so that we can all enjoy them. **We're especially looking for recordings we could use for use in Lent, Holy Week, Easter,** or other special days.

**Need help finding a Salem zoom meeting or need to set one up?** Just go to our website at SalemBridgeport.org, click on the Resources tab, then on Calendar. On the calendar just find the day and click on the event and a zoom invitation will appear. Sometimes you may have to click on “(+2 more)” in order to see additional vents that don't fit in the calendar square. If your Salem committee or group would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Karl by emailing him at [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net) or by leaving a message on the church phone, 203-336-3300.

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs  
Sunday, February 14, 2021**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece,  
were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people.  
In the course of their work they created a written language,  
inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

# THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

*If you're reading this online, just click on the underlined links for details.  
Or go to [CCGB.org](http://CCGB.org)*

## WHY DO WE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE?

- [Why Advocacy - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

The Council of Churches and our member congregations have prioritized the issues listed below for our advocacy efforts. Policy changes in these areas will have an immediate, positive effect on our communities and the neighbors we serve.

### Climate Change

*learn about how addressing food insecurity and reducing our food waste can make a huge difference*

- [Combatting Food Insecurity](#)
- [Ways to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- [Articles from Earth Day 2020](#)

### Criminal Justice Reform

*help us pass the Clean Slate bill and give people a real second chance*

- [Clean Slate Bill - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

### Education Equity

*all children in Bridgeport and beyond deserve a quality education*

- [Call to Action](#)
- [CCGB's Goals and Initiatives](#)
- [Education Reform - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

### Immigration Reform

*how shall we "welcome the stranger" with respect and care?*

### Gun Violence Prevention

*"do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed" Leviticus 19:16*

- [Overview of Resources](#)
- [Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign](#)
- [Congregational Toolkit \(PCUSA\)](#)

### Resources on the CT Legislature

*Here you can find basic guides, templates and resources for raising your voice and getting involved!*

- [Guide to Written Testimony for a Public Hearing on CT Legislation.pdf](#)
- [How a CT Bill Becomes Law.pdf](#)