



Salem Lutheran Church
Fifth Weekend of Easter
May 1/2, 2021

Welcome To
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"Living Christ's Love"

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**Fifth Weekend of Easter
Holy Communion**

**May 1/2, 2021
Saturday 5:00 p.m. / Sunday 9:30 a.m.**

⌘ GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



We Know that Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace and peace 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.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P:** O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

⌘ RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

A: The First Reading is from the 8th Chapter of Acts ...

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a wilderness road. So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch,

went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31

A: *Please join me in praying Psalm 22 responsively:*

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

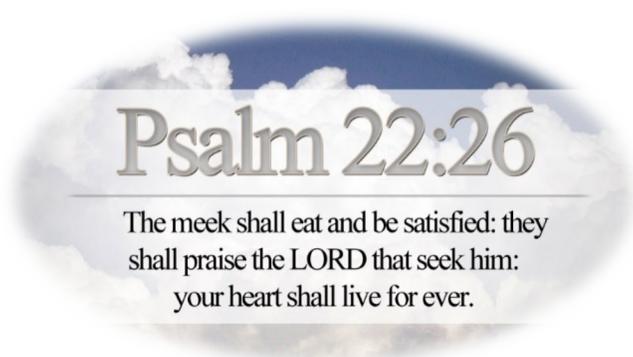
A: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**C: For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

A: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the LORD.

**C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

A: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"



Psalm 22:26

The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they
shall praise the LORD that seek him:
your heart shall live for ever.

THE SECOND READING

1st John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

A: The Second Reading is from the 4th Chapter of 1st John ...

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th Chapter . . .

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

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Preston Fields

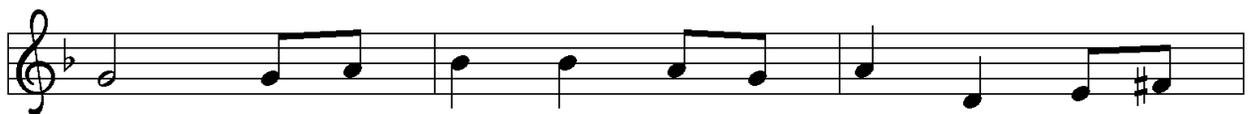
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 403

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937
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⌘ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- A:** *Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed ...*
- C:** **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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A:** Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

(A brief silence)

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. On this Kick-Off Weekend to our campaign, bless our efforts that we might serve you. Hear us, O God.

- C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. ***We pray for Bev, Art, Kathy, Sally, Bob, Leroy, Dennis, Sandy, Carol, Betty, Phyllis*** and those we say aloud or hold in our hearts. *(wait 10 seconds)* Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit especially with Donna and Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before you. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

OFFERING

To Give Your Offering Electronically, please text "Salemlutherangive" to 77977

C: **O God you have been our help in ages past. You inspired the Swedish founders of this community to build a church, start a school and serve the community. Through many seasons and challenges, changing needs and new buildings, this community has worked together to sustain our ministries.**

Now is the time for the next step in our ministry together, to repair this building that has served us so well and renovate this space to be

accessible and hospitable to all God's children. Inspire us to volunteer and give generously as you have provided for us so abundantly. Bless the gifts that are gathered, that we might continue to live Christ's love, together. In Jesus' Name,

C: Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

⌘ GATHERING AT GOD'S TABLE

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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.

*Please refer to Pastor Preston’s email/letter
“Communion in Exceptional Times.”*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

LAMB OF GOD *(Spoken responsively)*

P: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

C: **Have mercy on us.**

P: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

C: **Have mercy on us.**

P: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

C: **Grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW Hymn 389

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
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TABLE BLESSING

- P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C:** **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A:** *Let us pray ...* Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C:** **Amen.**

⌘ **GOING FORTH TO “Live Christ’s Love”**

DEPARTURE BLESSING

- P:** May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. Almighty God, Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- A:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C:** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- A:** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



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Worship Leaders . . .

Pastor Preston Fields
John Seraphine, Saturday Assisting Minister
Saturday Sound Tech
Brandon Johnson, Sunday Assisting Minister
Larry Schlawin, Sunday Sound Tech

Musicians . . .

Michael Graddy, Piano
The Graddy Family

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