

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Announcements

Temple Talk

Randy Rugroden

Recognition of Graduate

Congregation response: **We will.**

Presentation of Scholarship

Beth Spande

Presentation of Quilt

Sew 'N Tell

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.
You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.
You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.
In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.
In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.
Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.
To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

Thine the Amen

#826

***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.

***Kyrie & Canticle of Praise**

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.
Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be
drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

¹Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;**
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of
God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;**
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God! R

⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;**
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God,**
the | God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

- ¹⁰**Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R**
- ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.
- ³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**
- ³⁴Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
- ³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL READING: John 17:1-11**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your

presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

***HYMN**

I Come with Joy

ELW #482

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of harmony, as you drew your Son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness especially Woody, Larry, Shirley, Dean, Leland and all others on our hearts and minds this day. We pray for the family and friends of Bob Cotton.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.
Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.*

OFFERTORY

This Joyful Eastertide

vs. 1 #391

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.**

DISTRIBUTION IN PEWS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

#579

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

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**Assisting in Worship**

Lector: Larry T. Lahs

Ushers: Mike, Kim, Mallory and Morgan Luhring

Coffee: Men's Bible Study

**Thank you** to Jan Reshetar for the beautiful music this morning.

**Salem member** Bob Cotton passed away this week. Prayers are with his family and friends.

**Flowers** near the altar today are congratulations and happy 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to Jack & Donna Werner.

**This Week at Salem**

Tuesday, May 23: 8:30 a.m. Sew 'N Tell

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday, May 26: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday, May 28: 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Coffee

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**High School Graduation Time**

-Salem will be honoring Morgan Luhring this morning at 9:00 a.m. coffee reception hosted by the Men's Bible Study and during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

-Salem members are also invited to a Grad Party for Morgan Luhring on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at the Edgewater Bay Pavilion, Edgewater Drive, Albert Lea.

**Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday, May 28th**

Geraniums are \$5.75 each to be used in church on Sunday, May 28th.

Please include payment to Salem Altar Guild. Deadline is today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ will pick up    \_\_\_ will not pick up