

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

## *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*May 14, 2023*

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

## *Gathering*

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

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

#### **\*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**

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

#389

**\*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 & Cantic of Praise**

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**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines

made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 66:8-20**

*Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)*

<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me. **R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mark Boorsma**

**\*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.

*A brief silence.*

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving Woody, Larry, Shirley, Bob, Leland, Dean and all others on our hearts and minds this day. Prayers for the family and friends of Ethel Lea Moen.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory.

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.**

## *Thanksgiving*

*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

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**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

## *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**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

#619

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting in Worship**

Lector: Kathy Paul

Ushers: Frank & Pat Gjersvik

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

**Flowers** near the altar today are given in honor of all mothers by the Johnsrud family.

**Salem member** Ethel Lea Moen passed away this week. Prayers are with her family and friends.

**This Week at Salem**

Tuesday, May 16: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Thursday, May 18: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Friday, May 19: 6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study

Sunday, May 21: 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Coffee in honor of graduate, Morgan Luhring

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**The Worship & Music Committee of Ascension Lutheran** would like to extend an invitation to all our friends at Salem to a “Spuds & Sundaes” Ascension Day celebration on Thursday, May 18, beginning at 5:30 pm at Ascension. Baked potatoes and a variety of items will be provided for you to “load it up your way!” Following that, Ascension’s Second Quarter Member honoree, Doris Guenther, will be celebrated with cake and an ice cream sundae bar. We hope you’ll make plans to join us as we come together to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would appreciate an RSVP to Georgia, our secretary, at 373-3408 so we can better prepare.

**There is a new sign-up sheet** in the Gathering Space for Women of Salem. We need volunteers (men & women) to help at funerals. Would you be willing to help if contacted?

**High School Graduation Time**

Salem will be honoring Morgan Luhring on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. coffee reception 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 May 21.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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

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