

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 10: 44-48

The First Reading is from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 98 (Please read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice

of song.

**<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5: 1-6**

The Second Reading is from the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 John.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 15: 9-17**

The Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments

and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **THE SERMON**

## **THE 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.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Response to: “Hear us, O God” . . . . . **Your mercy is great.**

## **THE 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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

## **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## POSTLUDE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Please remember **masks are required and we will be observing social distancing. Worship seating is available in the sanctuary and the basement**, with 2 larger family spaces for our families with young children in the upstairs Sunday School room. As you arrive, you will receive a bag with a bulletin, Communion elements and anything else that may be needed for the Service. Ushers will seat you to assure we observe social distancing.

Reading today's lessons is Emma Moyer.

**Council Meeting** will be held **TOMORROW, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Meetings are in-person in the church basement. Please wear masks & social distancing will be observed. *Zoom* will also be available.

**Salem Summer Project** – In order to be ready to start our annual “Salem Summer Project” on June 20<sup>th</sup>, I need your help! **Please list 5 favorite Bible Stories.** You’ll have the opportunity to submit 5 stories per week for the whole month of May. No need to nominate more than once! **Please fill out the insert & place it in the offering plate.** How many can YOU come up with?

~ Pastor Stina



**Memorial Day - On Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:50 am**, the Honor Guards of American Legion Victory Post #25 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6631 will hold a brief ceremony to honor and pay their respects to all Veterans buried in

Salem Cemetery. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this brief ceremony in honor of all our Veterans. Salem can be proud to have one of the largest attendance at the ceremonies each year.

**Prayer Meetings** have resumed! They are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the church basement. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please wear your mask and social distancing will be observed. **The next Prayer Meeting will be on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**Prayer Chain** requests may be given to Elaine and Charlie Benner (ceben58@ptd.net).

**Spring Clean-Up:** Outdoor Spring Clean-Up will be held on **Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 am.** Please bring your shovels, rakes, trimmers, wheelbarrows and other lawn care tools and help spruce-up the church grounds and picnic grove. The more who come out to help, the less time it will take! There will be **NO indoor clean-up and no lunch will be served,** due to COVID. The rain date is May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 am.



**Summer Worship!** Spread the word to family, friends and congregation members! Beginning **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will be moving our **Worship Services outside to the picnic grove for the Summer** (weather permitting)! Worship will continue to be at

**10:30 am**, and like last summer, everyone is encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs to sit in. You are also welcome to "drive-in" if you are more comfortable staying in your car.

The deadline to submit items for the June newsletter is **Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please give all items to Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) by the deadline. Thank you!

**Readers are needed!** Please contact Pastor Stina if you would like to volunteer to read and she will provide you with the readings. Currently, there is not a sign-up sheet in the vestibule due to COVID.

Remember to support the “**Military Share Food Bank for Veterans**”. This organization helps provide food pantry items for Veterans in need in our local area. Drop your donation in the fishbowl on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

During this difficult time, Salem’s financial obligations remain the same. Your continued financial support, as you are able, is greatly appreciated. Offerings can be mailed to the church (Salem Lutheran Church; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870) or made electronically through our website’s “Online Giving” tab. **Thank you!**