

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 15, 2022

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

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: *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 11: 1-8

The First Reading is from the 11th chapter of Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

PSALM: Psalm 148 (Please read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21: 1-6

The Second Reading is from the 21st chapter of Revelation.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

GOSPEL: John 13: 31-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON

**HYMN: *What A Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Leaning On The Everlasting Arms***

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

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,
who 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: "God, in your mercy," . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

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

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Go My Children With My Blessing*

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.

SENDING

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

Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reading today's lessons is Brenda Stranko.

Salem has been blessed for the past year to have **Donna Moyer** serve as Custodian. She has gone above and beyond to keep the church and property not only clean, but a welcoming place to all who share this space. We are so grateful for her time, energy and effort. Thank you, Donna! Please keep Donna in your prayers as she recovers from surgery and continues on her road toward healing.

At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome back **Betty (Zellers) Meiser** as our new Custodian. Betty held the Custodian position here at Salem for many years! What a joy to have Betty back here at Salem! Welcome back, Betty!



“Worshipping Under The Trees” begins on Sunday, May 29th! Dust off your lawn chairs, invite friends and family and join your Salem Family in the picnic grove for worship every Sunday at 10:30 am (weather permitting). **Plans are to worship in the grove from May 29th through September 4th.** In case of rain, services will be held in the sanctuary.

Reader sign-up sheets are again posted on the bulletin board in the upstairs vestibule! Upcoming lessons are also posted on the bulletin board, so you can preview them when signing up. Please check it out and sign-up to be a Sunday Reader. Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering to read!



Spring Clean-Up! Men & Women Are Needed! Spring Clean-Up Day will be held **THIS Saturday, May 21st** beginning at **8:00 am**. It's time to spruce-up the **inside and outside of the church and clean-up the grove** to prepare for summer activities. Bring your outdoor equipment - wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, weed-whackers, bush/hedge trimmers, etc. and also indoor cleaning equipment – dust rags/'Swiffers', buckets, sponges, brooms, etc. **The rain date will be Saturday, May 28th at 8:00 am.** Thank you to all who contribute their time and efforts in keeping our church and grove looking beautiful inside and out!



The Honor Guards of American Legion Victory Post #25 and VFW Post #6631, both of Selinsgrove, **will be coming to Salem Cemetery on Monday, May 30th at approximately 10:50 am**, for a brief ceremony to pay respects and honor all the Veterans buried in our cemetery. **Please plan to attend** to help us remember those who served and protected our country.

Camp Mt Luther Cabin - Together with the other churches in the Middle Creek Conference, we have adopted Cabin “Maple 2” at Camp Mt. Luther. Each year, we need to clean the cabin in anticipation of the camp season, as well as do some repair work that is needed. We will gather on **June 2nd at 10:00 am** at Camp to work together to make our cabin shine! Questions or want to carpool? See Pastor Stina!



June 5th Pentecost Worship - On June 5th, we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church, and the day we remember the Holy Spirit showing up in tongues of fire. We will celebrate Pentecost by welcoming those who have joined our community over the last 2 years. **You are invited to bring "fire food" to cook over our Pentecost fire following Worship** and join in a time of fellowship as we kick off the summer season.

SPRING CLEANING?? Are you busy spring-cleaning? If you have clothing items and shoes to donate to *Community Aid*, please remember to put “**Salem Lutheran Church – Partner # 30119**” on your boxes and/or bags. Pre-made tags are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience. Salem Church earns money from *Community Aid* through your donations; however, it only applies to clothing and shoes, not other items. All money earned is used for our *Meals for Seals* program.

Do you have other items to donate (books, dishes/cookware, decorations, etc.)? Please consider donating these items to *The Mustard Seed* in Selinsgrove.