

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor**

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Sunday, May 2, 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 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. Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Acts 8: 26-40

The First Reading is from the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts.

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 22: 25-31** (Please read responsively)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

**SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-21**

The Second Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 John.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8**

The Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Bill Stahl, who passed away last week.

Reading today's lessons is Sue Moyer.

**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 your top 5 favorite Bible Stories.** They don’t need to be in order. 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

**Council Meeting** will be held on **Monday, 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.



**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.

**New Salem Church Email Address:** We have a new church email address! You can send a message to the church at the following address: [salemlutheranselinsgrove@gmail.com](mailto:salemlutheranselinsgrove@gmail.com).

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!**

## ***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 your top 5 favorite Bible Stories.** They don't need to be in order. 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*

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