

Sunday, May 26, 2019
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE – TBD

INTRODUCTION

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

WELCOME

Welcome to Salem Lutheran Church. We welcome all of you to worship today, especially those of you who are visiting, or are worshipping with us on Big Dog radio 98.9, KHUB 1340, or viewing on Spectrum cable.

This morning as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, we celebrate the new hope that resurrection brings into our lives. Every week as we gather, we seek new ways to love and serve God as we care for our neighbor.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, but confess your sins and God will give you peace.

Loving God, we confess that we are an anxious people who deny your blessing and fail to keep your word. Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins,

that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing. Beloved, receive the peace of Christ.

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Tyler Messerschmidt, Dawson Holverson, Kaylee Strohbehn, Elena Wright, Nick Novak, and Patrick Godfrey (in absentia).

It is no small thing to begin a journey four or five or eight years in the completing, full of tuition costs and late writing nights and early morning tests and study and memorization and practice all at the end to stand before peers and teachers with paper in hand and gown on shoulders and hat on head and new neural pathways in the brain and practiced hands and feet aimed toward the future all the while having trusted that God who started the work in you would also carry it through, gifting and strengthening and nourishing that you might use it all in service to the world.

So now may you have the grace to make great choices and bravely commit in faithful ways, remembering those who have loved you and honoring those who supported you.

May you continue to be uncomfortable with easy answers, and instead seek truth and depth, living as deeply in your soul as you commit deeply to the earth and its creatures and fellow humans.

May you remain angry together with God at injustice, poverty, and inequality, and so work for peace and justice and an end to oppression.

May you mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice, making use of all you've learned in the betterment of your vocation and neighbor in their need.

As Friar Michael Graham has said, "May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done."

And as we say at the affirmation of your baptism, so we say again now, stir up O Lord the gifts of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of power and might, the spirit of knowledge, of knowledge, of knowledge, and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, and all for love's sake, both now and forever. Amen.

***OPENING SONG** The Borning Cry – ELW #732



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

***GREETING - ELW S147)**

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 - ELW S147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



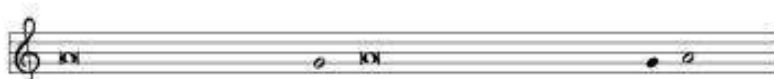
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

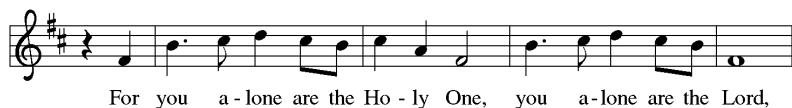
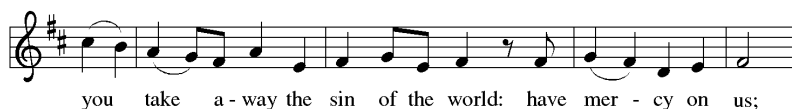
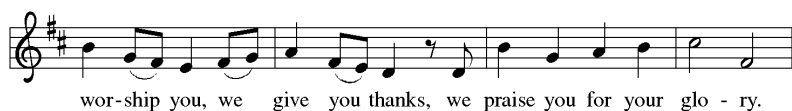


let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE – Glory to God - ELW S148



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 16:9-15

A reading from Acts.

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen

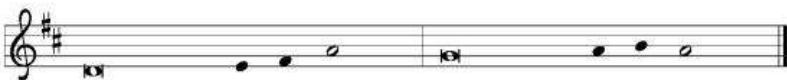
eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (*Ps. 67:4*)



¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

**²Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
all the na- | tions on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples | praise you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

**⁶The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

A reading from Revelation.

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplant sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia - ELW S151





***GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM Peace I Leave With You

CHILDREN'S SERMON Sandy Terry

SERMON Rev. Shari Schwedhelm

*HYMN OF THE DAY It Is Well With My Soul – ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

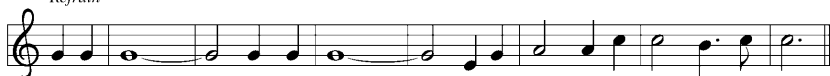


sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

COMMISSIONING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Sandy Terry, Dennis Remington, Cindy Gustafson, Barb Fanning?

Following the hymn of the day, the delegate(s) are called forward.

Leader: Delegate name(s), you have been chosen as a delegate to the Nebraska Synod Assembly. We join with you and with the whole church in confession of our faith.

CREED - ELW S152

**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.**

COMMISSIONING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Leader: You are sent to this gathering to serve the whole church. Will you seek the guidance of God as you join others in making decisions for the church? Will you bear the reconciliation of Christ as you work with others to determine the will of God for the future of the church?

Delegate(s): Yes, and I pray that God will help and direct me.

Leader: People of God. Will you support these Delegates in prayer? Will you pray for the Nebraska Synod?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: Delegate name(s), we bless you as you go forth in the name of God to serve us and all the people of God in the work of this assembly. May the light of Christ shine in you. May the Spirit of Christ guide you. May God bless you in your travel, this work and in your homecoming.

Congregation: Amen.

PRAYERS INCLUDE

Becky Hass and Kevin Specht who will be united in Marriage at Salem on June 1.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prevail upon us with your Spirit. Convince us daily that you have called us to proclaim the good news of your grace. Let all who love you proclaim your word of life. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Feed us with the bounty of your creation. Bless the earth with enough rain and sunshine for the flourishing of orchards, gardens, and fields. Give us thankful hearts as we share the fruit of the land with all who hunger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The leaves of your tree of life are for the healing of the nations. Bring an end to civil war, genocide, terrorism, and violence. Overcome divisions of race, politics, and religion. Mend relationships across borders and across oceans (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Our hearts are troubled and afraid. Visit us again with your peace. Comfort those facing uncertain futures: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those in difficult relationships, those with chronic pain, those waiting for news about their health, and those who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all who have died in service to nation. Inspire us to walk in your light and to live for the sake of freedom and justice for your children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Open the gates of salvation to all who are written in your book of life (*especially*). Lead us into the city that needs no light of sun or moon, where you will be our light forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

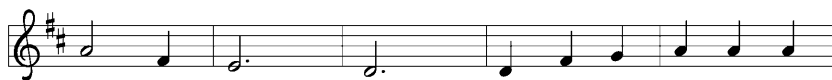
***PEACE**

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

OFFERING I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – WOV 649 – Verses 1, 2



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*OFFERTORY – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – ELW 649 – Verse 3

*OFFERING PRAYER

Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering,

that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

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** ELW S154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

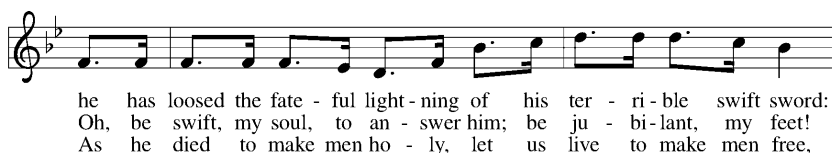
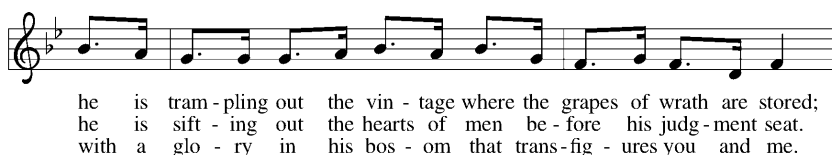
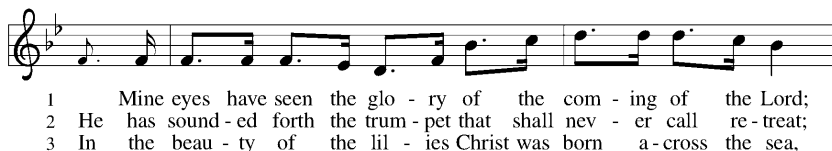
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING - ELW S155

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Battle Hymn of the Republic - ELW 890



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE TBD