

Salem May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

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

RADIO WELCOME

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

There are several places where you can find a copy of our bulletin to follow along with today's service. If you are part of our email list, you received one earlier this week. It is also found on our Facebook page and on our website at salemfremont.org under bulletin board. On our website in the top right corner, you will also find the Donate section, where you can continue to support our ministry while we are apart, and we truly appreciate your generosity. On our website under sermons, you will also find a recording of the sermon each week.

This morning we welcome Jeremy Murman at the piano and thank him for sharing his musical talents with us today.

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 worship, 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,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving God,

we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

OPENING SONG *Jesus We Celebrate Your Victory*

**Jesus we celebrate Your victory
Jesus we revel in Your love
Jesus we rejoice You've set us free
Jesus Your death has brought us life**

**It was for freedom that Christ has set us free
No longer to be subject to a yoke of slavery
So we're rejoicing in God's victory
Our hearts responding to His love**

**Jesus we celebrate Your victory
Jesus we revel in Your love
Jesus we rejoice You've set us free
Jesus Your death has brought us life**

**His Spirit in us releases us from fear
The way to Him is open
With boldness we draw near
And in His presence our problems disappear
Our hearts responding to His love**

**Jesus we celebrate Your victory
Jesus we revel in Your love
Jesus we rejoice You've set us free
Jesus Your death has brought us life**

CCLI Song # 165487 John Gibson

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Fremont High Graduates

Hunter Flittie, Josh Godfrey, and Preston Remington

Arlington High Graduate

Lauren Clapper

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (ELW 857) Sing Twice

**Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us**

**You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high**

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SONG OF PRAISE (MY REDEEMER LIVES)

**I know He rescued my soul.
His blood has covered my sin.
I believe. I believe.**

**My shame He's taken away.
My pain is healed in His name.
I believe. I believe.**

**I'll raise a banner 'cause my Lord
has conquered the grave**

**My redeemer lives. My redeemer lives.
My redeemer lives. My redeemer lives.**

**You lift my burden. I'll rise with You.
I'm dancing on this mountain top
to see Your Kingdom come.**

**My redeemer lives. My redeemer lives.
My redeemer lives. My redeemer lives.**

CCLI Song # 2397964

Reuben Morgan

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WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

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.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For '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.'

²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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." Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (SPOKEN): Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;**

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

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

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the
smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

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.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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;

¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (WOV 612)



GOSPEL: 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:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion;
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures (*local bodies of water may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

For your many blessings Lord,
we give you thanks and praise.
For all these things and those unspoken,
We are thankful Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692) **We Are An Offering**

**We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering**

**All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You**

**We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering**

CCLI Song # 16220

Dwight Liles

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OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,
our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you
make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again with your Word for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

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

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

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba (WOV 650)



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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