

## **Salem September 13 2020**

15th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

### **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 under sermons, you will also find a recording of the sermon each week.

This morning we welcome Gloria Breithaupt at the piano and thank her for sharing her musical talents with us today.

During this season of Pentecost, we celebrate the inbreaking of the Holy Spirit into the world so long ago, and we pause to give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We hope and pray that your time here this morning fills you with new breath for your week to come.

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only* **Wise (ELW 834)**



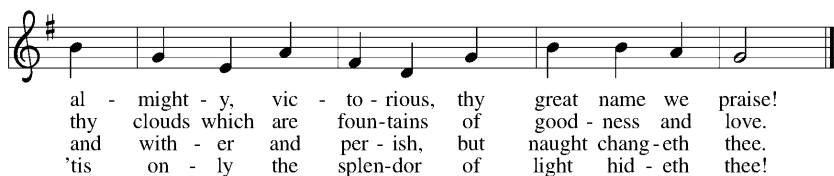
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

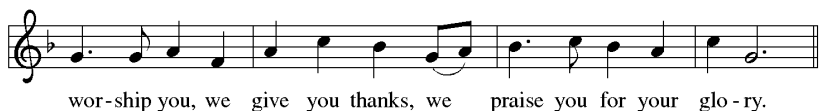


Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

## GREETING

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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 121)



*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

A reading from Exodus.

*Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.*

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up

the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (Tone 6)



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<sup>1b</sup>I will sing to the LORD, who has | triumphed gloriously;  
throwing horse and rider in- | to the sea.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD is my strength | and my might,  
and has become | my salvation;**

this is my God—this God | I will praise;  
my father's God—this God I | will exalt.

<sup>3</sup>**The LORD | is a warrior;  
the LORD | is his name.**

<sup>4</sup>The LORD hurled Pharaoh's chariots and army in- | to the  
sea;

his picked officers were sunk in | the Red Sea.

<sup>5</sup>**The floods | covered them;  
they went down into the depths | like a stone.**

<sup>6</sup>Your right hand, O LORD, glo- | rious in power—  
your right hand, O LORD, shat- | tered the enemy.

<sup>7</sup>**In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew  
your | adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed | them like  
stubble.**

<sup>8</sup>At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the  
floods stood up | in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>**The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake, I  
will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its | fill of  
them.**

**I will draw my sword, my hand | shall destroy  
them."**

<sup>10</sup>You blew with your wind, the sea | covered them;  
they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.

<sup>11</sup>**"Who is like you, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?**

**Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in  
splendor, | doing wonders?**

<sup>20</sup>Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a  
tambourine | in her hand;

and all the women went out after her with  
tambourines | and with dancing.

**<sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, who  
has | triumphed gloriously;  
throwing horse and rider in- | to the sea."**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Romans.

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

<sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and



pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Our Father, We Have Wandered (ELW 606)*



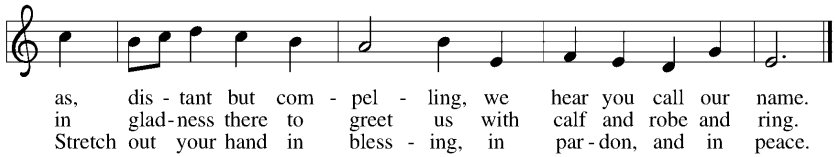
1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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## WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

### Presentation of New Members

Council Representative: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

### APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## Address and Questions

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

Welcome

## **WELCOME**

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Let us pray,

We give you thanks for our new members, David, Stacey, Ariel, and Deuce, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new

ministries of education and growth (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; 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 *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)**



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

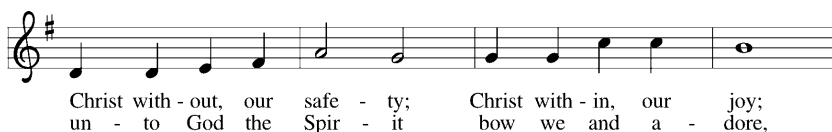
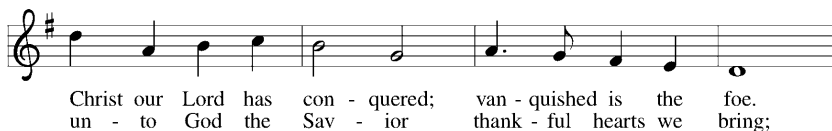
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy  
Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *On Our Way Rejoicing* (ELW 537)**



*Refrain*



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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