

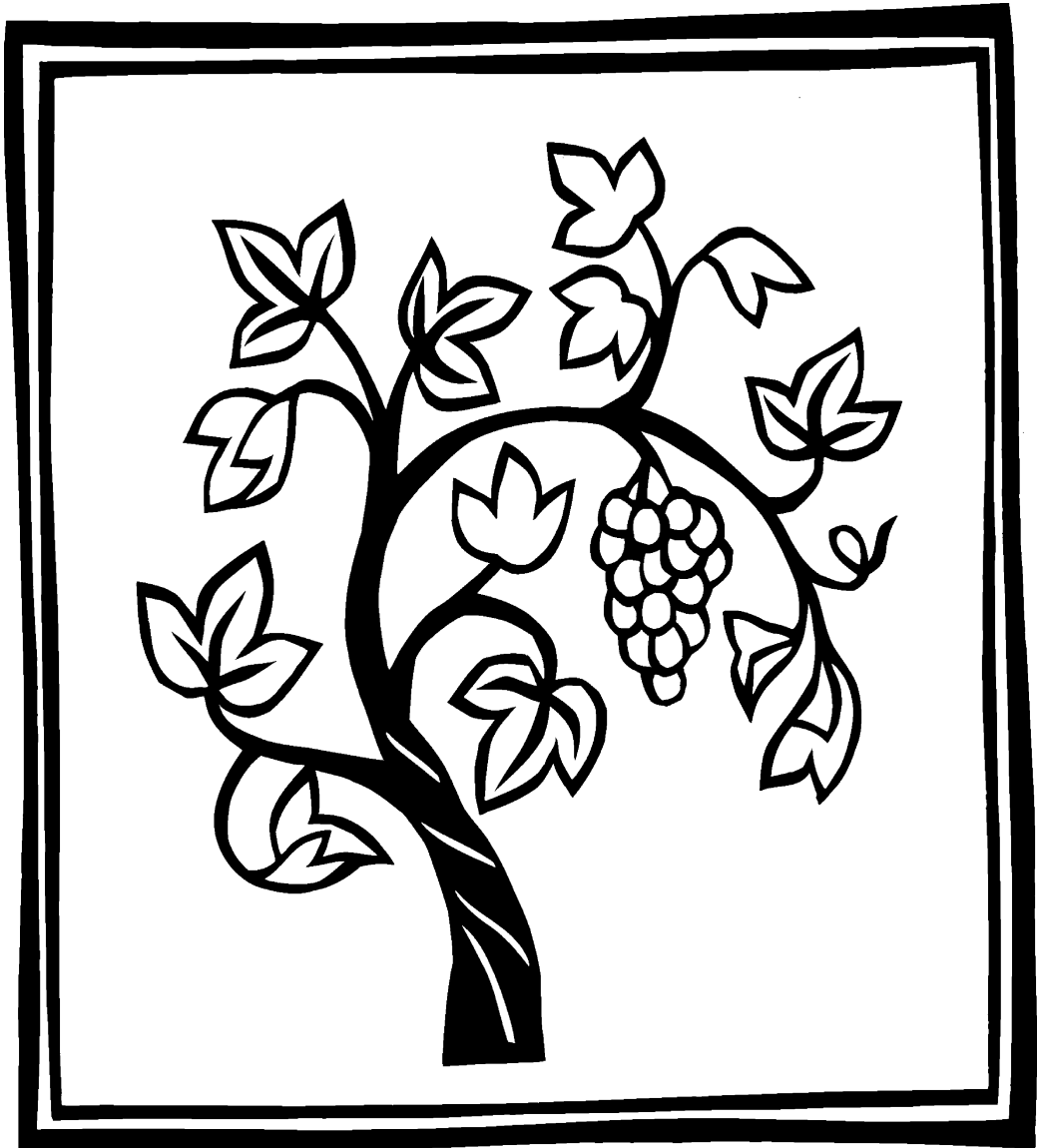


Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024 – 9:00am

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

**Sunday—9:00am Worship Service**

**Preaching: Pastor Judy Wozniak & Rev. Kristen Corr Rod**

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon

**Reader:**

**Sound:** Al Skellenger

**Live Stream:** Brad Evenson

**Acolytes:** Mason Helgeson, Tucker Koch

**Liturgical Choir:**

**Communion Servers:**

**Worship Coordinator:** Willie Skellenger

**Ushers:** Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Al Sterrenberg

**Altar Guild for April:** Margaret Okland, Linda Helgeson

**The Live Stream Broadcast is Given With Thankfulness for those who adopt, foster, care for and nurture ~ embracing children as one's own.**

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## INTRODUCTION

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### BELLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*All may remain seated as the presiding minister begins.*

Christ is the vine. We are the branches. Abide in the vine, and you will abide in love.

Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

**We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.**

Come to love one another, for love is of God.

**We have come to the household of love, for God is love.**

Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

**We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.**

Come! All are welcome here.

*The children will process during the gathering hymn.*

**GATHERING HYMN**      *In Christ There Is No East or West*      ELW #650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.  
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Hosanna”*

Faith Formation

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

Pastor Kristen

**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.**

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**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 8:26-40

<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.”

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

*We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.*

<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

<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 from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (Refrain) **ELW #382**

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to 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.**

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

## SERMON

(*\*\*\*Please remain seated.*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell*” YouTube

(*\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 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.**

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

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## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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### **OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

### **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.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

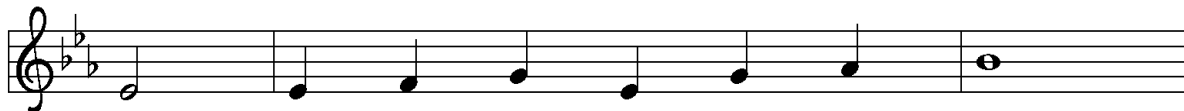
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

ELW #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE



