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

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026 – 9:00am

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 Service
Preaching: Pastor Judy Wozniak
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Readers: Connor Kem
Sound: Bruce Adams
Live Stream: Brad Evenson
Acolytes:
Communion Servers:
Runner: Bill Tweeten
Rail: Kathy Chose, Mike Swenson
Floor: Shannon Bruhns, Lidna Tweeten, Jacob Tweeten
Music Leaders:
Worship Coordinator: Willie Skellenger
Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson
Altar Guild for May: Gloria Kvale, JoAnn Villa

The Live Stream Broadcast is Given by the Members of Salem

Salem Contact Information:

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INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELLS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*
CALL TO WORSHIP
Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ***I Love to Tell the Story*** ELW #661

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936
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PRAYER OF THE DAY
O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

*(***Please be seated.)*
CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 1:6-14

6 When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you
will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and
to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a
cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward
heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do
you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a
Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs
where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas,
Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of
James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women,
including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.

1 Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.
2 **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;**
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
4 **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;**
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

5 In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
6 **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;**
but the rebels shall live in desert places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
8 **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

9 You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.
10 **Your people found their home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
33 **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
35 **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW p.151

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GOSPEL John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have
given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And
this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have
sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father,
glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world
existed.

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were
yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that
everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to
them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have
believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world
but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and
yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but
they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you
have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

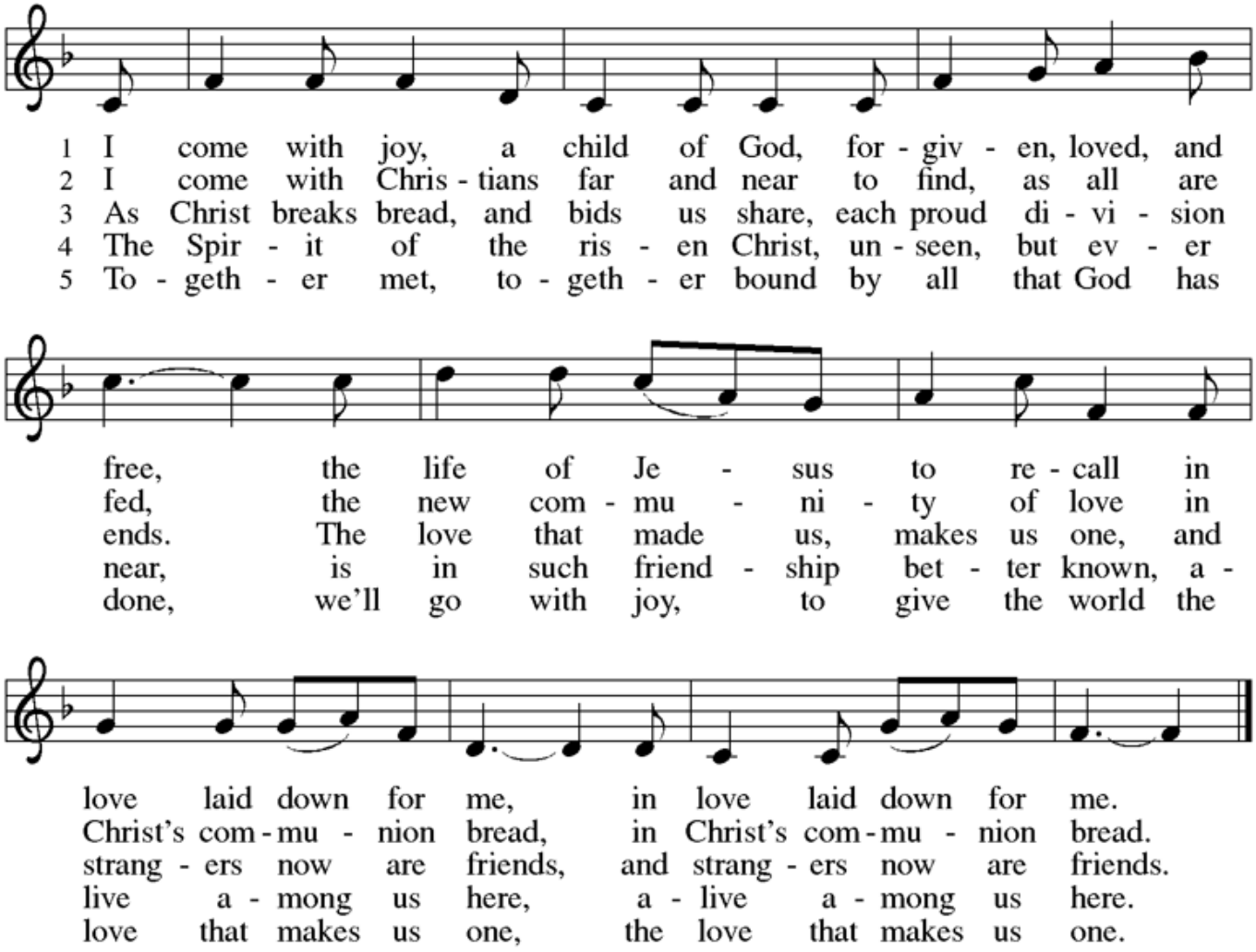
Praise to you, O Christ.

*(***Please be seated.)*

SERMON

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ***I Come With Joy*** ELW #482



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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.

*(***Please be seated.)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING
MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER
Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

> In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
> and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
> Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
> Do this for the remembrance of me.
>
> Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
> and gave it for all to drink, saying:
> This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
> shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
> Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

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

INVITATIONTO COMMUNION
Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING OF GRADUATES
The following members of Salem Lutheran Church will be graduating from High School this afternoon: *Jersey Budach, Landyn Christian, Samuel Grothe, Avah Klebsch, Abby Koeppen, Gracie Pederson, Zachary Stene, Dakota White.*

We want to take a moment to acknowledge our Graduating Seniors and their accomplishments, send them off with a gift, surround them with our love and prayers, and remind them of God's continuing love for them wherever they go.

Before you were even formed, God knew you. While in your mothers' womb, God named you. At your birth, God's breath filled you with life. Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time.

The Graduates are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a gift as their names are read: ***Jersey Budach, Landyn Christian, Samuel Grothe, Avah Klebsch, Abby Koeppen, Gracie Pederson, Zachary Stene, Dakota White.***

As they step forward into the world that awaits them, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light. We ask this blessing upon each of them.

Let us pray, **We thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their tenacity in troubled times, their leadership in the classroom, on the field, in musical, theatrical and visual arts. They have blessed, entertained, encouraged and inspired us.**

The Graduates may return to their families.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

SENDING HYMN ***Go, My Children, with My Blessing*** ELW #543

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Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. OneLicense. Tune Public Domain. No Permissions Required. Arrangement Oxford University Press (New York). OneLicense/CCLI

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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