

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 27-28, 2024

A watercolor-style illustration of a sunrise or sunset. The sun is a bright yellow circle partially obscured by a thick, horizontal band of orange and red watercolor wash. Several thin, vertical lines of yellow and orange radiate upwards from the sun, suggesting rays of light. The background is a light, textured grey.

resurrection
REALity

*The Living Lord Produces
Active Faith*



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Resurrection Reality:

The Living Lord Produces Active Faith

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith and the Word you give to teach and encourage us in that faith. Bless us through the Gospel we hear today and fill our hearts with joy and praise. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: We believe that Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life is guaranteed. That inevitably shapes how we will act now. Jesus lives! Therefore, through his Word, he is able to work on our minds and hearts, molding us to people of compassion and love. Here is a resurrection reality. Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith, but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

WORSHIP SERIES: Resurrection Reality: St. Paul writes, "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Easter is history. Since Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, we know the reality of his identity and victory. Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano/Organ: Madison Boerner

Vocalists: Lydia Mattson, Abigail Ibisch, Jessie Wolfe, Alli Dorn, Beth Wurst

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

church@salemlutheran.org

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Opening Anthem

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Chris Tomlin

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
Refrain My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns.
Unending love. Amazing grace.
3. The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. (*Refrain* x2)
4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn: This Is the Feast

CW 938 st. 5

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -

gun his _____ reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Acts 4:32-37

In the early church, as the Apostles preached Christ's resurrection, the living Lord produced fruits of unity and generosity.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

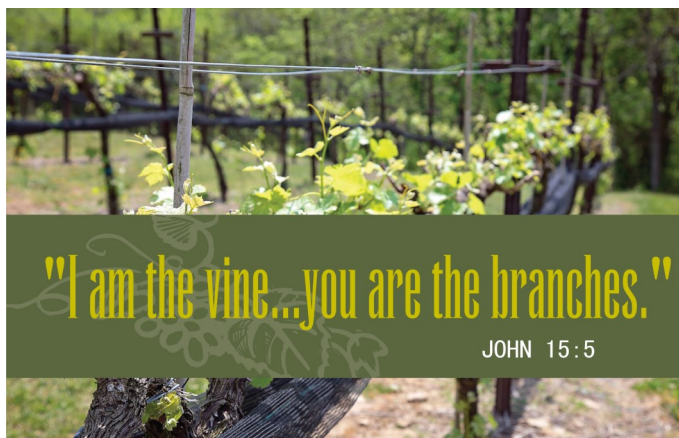
⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Children's Devotion



Hymn of the Day: Christ the Vine

CW 709



1 I long to serve my Sav - ior, to seek what's good and right,
2 There came, with grace un - spar - ing, a vine from heav'n a - bove,
3 And so I'll serve my Sav - ior with pow'r that he pro - vides,



to trust and nev - er wa - ver, to walk in truth and light.
its branch - es meant for bear - ing the fruits of self - less love.
for he, my blest Re - deem - er, with - in my soul a - bides.



But con - duct pure and ho - ly re - quires a pow'r not mine;
This vine is Christ who of - fered his life up - on a tree;
The fruit of self - less giv - ing will grow by God's de - sign



a branch is fruit - ful on - ly when an - chored in a vine.
for all my sin he suf - fered and made a branch of me.
as I, the branch, keep liv - ing by faith in Christ the vine.

Sermon

Based on John 15:1-8

"God's garden produces good fruit"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated.

Offering



 Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 Give Online

(8:00am) Adult Confirmation

*After instruction with our pastor, we welcome **Nick Harper and Jeaney Sorenson** into our church family through adult confirmation. While the practice of confirmation is never mentioned or commanded in Scripture, it is a valuable tradition as new members confess their shared faith with us and as they vow before God, each other, and all of us to remain faithful to him.*

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**



Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final phrase "grant us your peace." at the end of the sixth staff.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Distribution Hymn: Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

CW 595



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen CW 454 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es; life in the



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; break - ing our bread, giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; heav - en to earth, Christ to the



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

College Retreat Video

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Resurrection Reality—We will overcome this broken world

Bible Readings: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; 1 John 5:1-6; John 17:11b-19

Hymns: 681, 446, 518, 930

Confirmation for the youth class of 2024 at the 10:30am service.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together, and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, on the wall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome, too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

