

May 2-3, 2026



Fifth Sunday in Easter



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

## **Fifth Sunday in Easter**

*Alive!*

*He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven*

**W**elcome! 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:** Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to wonder if he was only just a human being. If our last view of him is a criminal crucified on a cross, he would look like someone to be rejected. He couldn't even help himself, much less anyone else! But he lives, and it makes a difference. He is the only way to heaven, and the benefits of his resurrection are meant for every man, woman, and child who has ever lived.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** Life is full of either/or moments. Some matter more, and some matter less. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Since Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead, if he were to remain dead he would be both a failure and a fraud. If Christ had not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50 day celebration of that fact.

**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION:** The practice of confirmation is never mentioned in Scripture, but that doesn't mean it is without value. After 2-3 years of intensive study with parents and pastors, six of our young members today confess their faith and vow before God and us to remain faithful to him. May God bless us all as we are reminded to encourage, admonish, and bless each other throughout our lives. May he bless them, and us, to continue to grow in grace and knowledge.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Sunday Liturgist: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen

Organ: Robyn Stoller      Flute: Rachel Collins

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## HYMN: Like the Golden Sun Ascending

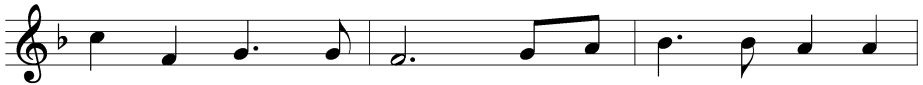
CW 470



1 Like the gold - en sun as - cend - ing, break - ing through the  
2 Thanks to you, O Christ vic - to - rious! Thanks to you, O  
3 You have died for my trans - gres - sion, all my sins on  
4 For the joy your ad - vent gave me, for your gos - pel's



gloom of night, on the earth its glo - ry spend - ing so that  
Lord of life! Death has now no pow - er o'er us, you have  
you were laid. You have won for me sal - va - tion, on the  
great re - ward, for your bap - tism which has saved me, for your



dark - ness takes to flight, thus my Je - sus from the  
con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause you did a -  
cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -  
sup - per and your Word; for your death, the bit - ter



grave and death's dis - mal, dread - ful cave rose tri -  
rise and have o - pened par - a - dise! None can  
rise and shall meet you in the skies. Death it -  
scorn, for your res - ur - rec - tion morn: Lord, I



um - phant Eas - ter morn - ing at the ear - ly pur - ple dawn - ing.  
ful - ly sing the glo - ry of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.  
self is tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.  
thank you and ex - tol you, and in heav'n I shall be - hold you.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  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.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

### **(Sunday) Anthem: In My Father's House**

*By Philip Stopford*

Refrain: In my Father's house are many dwellings,  
and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back again  
and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
You have faith in God: have faith also in me.  
In my Father's house are many dwelling places.  
If there were not, would I have told you  
I am going to prepare a place for you? Refrain

Where I am going, you know the way.  
For I am the way, the truth, and the life;  
no one comes to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you also know my Father. Refrain

My spirit will be with you always.  
The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth will remind you all that I have said.  
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled; Do not be afraid.  
I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me. Refrain

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you always cause your church to grow, and with your light and grace, you strengthen the hearts of those to whom you have given new birth through water and the Spirit. Let all who have been instructed in your truth continue to increase both in faith and knowledge, that they may rejoice in their baptism and grow as members of the holy body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

Acts 4:8-12

*St. Peter explains that Jesus is the only person in whom salvation is found.*

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup>If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup>then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>Jesus is

" 'the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.'"

<sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm of the Day: This is the Day the LORD Has Made Psalm 118A

## Refrain



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

## Tone



The LORD is my strength and / my defense;  
he has become my sal- / vation.  
The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;  
the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!  
I will not / die but live,  
and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. *Refrain*

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;  
you have become my sal- / vation.  
The stone the builders re- / jected  
has become the / cornerstone;  
the LORD has / done this,  
and it is marvelous / in our eyes.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-10

*People stumble over the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven, but that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.*

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”  
<sup>8</sup>and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me. *Refrain*

## Gospel

John 14:1-11

*Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.*

<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup>My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup>Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 469



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;  
2 Mak - er and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,  
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,  
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished; heav'n is won to - day!"  
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,  
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.  
all that now is fall - en raise to life a - gain.



Lo, the dead is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!  
of the Fa - ther's God - head you, the on - ly Son,  
Come, then, true and faith - ful, come, ful - fill your word;  
Show your face in bright - ness; shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.  
man - kind to de - liv - er man - hood did put on.  
this is your third morn - ing— rise, O bur - ied Lord.  
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.

*Refrain*

“Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say;  
 “Hell to - day is van - quished; heav’n is won to - day!”

## Sermon

Based on 1 Peter 2:4-10

### “One Stone, One House, One People”

Please stand after the sermon.

## THANKSGIVING

### Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the  
 Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated.

### Offering



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.



Connect Card



Give Online

*While the practice of confirmation is never mentioned or commanded in Scripture, it is a valuable tradition as new adult members and young instructed members confess their shared faith with us and as they vow before God, each other, and all of us to remain faithful to him.*

## **(Saturday) Adult Confirmation**

*After instruction with our pastors, we welcome Rob & Jessica Langenbach (children William & Liam) and Ted Jarosch into our church family through adult confirmation.*

## **(10:30 am) Youth Confirmation**

*After instruction with our pastors, we welcome six young members into full communicant membership through youth confirmation.*

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

**M:** My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

**M:** Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

**Students: I am.**

**M:** Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as we studied them and as we confess in the Apostle's Creed?

**S: Yes, I believe in our gracious and Triune God.**

**M:** Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**S: I do reject him.**

M: Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

**S: I do.**

M: Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

**S: I do.**

M: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

**S: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

**S: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

*The pastor speaks to the congregation:*

M: Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

M: Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

M: I now invite you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

*Those being confirmed approach the altar and kneel. After they share their memorized confirmation verse, the minister lays his hand on the head of each and speaks a word of blessing from the Scriptures.*

*Ella Margaret Bicek*

*Isaiah 43:2-3a*

**Parents: Justin & Meghan Bicek**

**Born: October 28, 2011**

**Baptized: December 31, 2011**

*Dahlia Ann Lamb*

*Joshua 1:9*

**Parents: Travis Lamb, and Shane & Abby Jones**

**Born: July 19, 2012**

**Baptized: October 6, 2012**

*Henry Myron Casperson*

*John 11:25*

**Parents: Craig & Amie Casperson**

**Born: April 20, 2012**

**Baptized: June 3, 2012**

*Brooklyn Alice Shopbell*

*Luke 22:42b*

**Parents: Justin & Nicole Shopbell**

**Born: October 5, 2011**

**Baptized April 8, 2012**

Raewynn Grace Bye

Hebrews 11:1

Parents: Aaron & Jennifer Bye

Born: June 14, 2011

Baptized: March 18, 2012

Emma J. Marie Helke

Romans 12:2

Parents: Terry Leudeke & Becky Mathison

Born: May 29, 2011

Baptized: June, 2011

### **(10:30am) Reception Into Communicant Membership**

M: In the name of our Lord Jesus and as a called servant of Christ I welcome you as communicant members of Salem Lutheran Church. I now invite you to partake of the sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table as a *precious privilege* given you by God through His Church. Receive this sacrament thankfully and often.

### **(10:30am) Words of Institution**

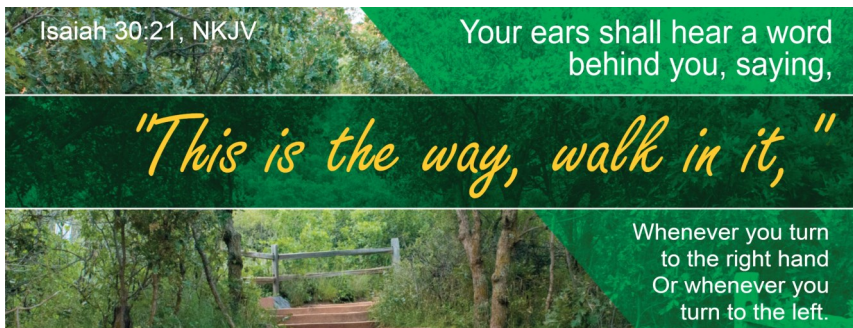
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.**

*This year's confirmands receive communion together as a group for the first time.*



**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.

## 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: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CW 920 sts. 1, 3-4



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
ask to gain; what they gain from you for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

**For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: Alive: He Calls Me to Live for Him

Bible Readings: Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

Hymns: 606, 557, 662, 557, 617



# SUMMER PROGRAM

**Session 1:** June 1 - June 19

**Session 2:** June 22 - July 10

**Session 3:** July 13 - July 31

**Session 4:** Aug 3 - Aug 21

**7 am - 5 pm**



Open to students entering  
Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



Cost is \$300 per week  
No extra fees



Students bring their own  
lunch and snacks



Field trips each week  
Cost included

**SCAN TO REGISTER!**



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *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, just to the left of the office hallway. 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.**

