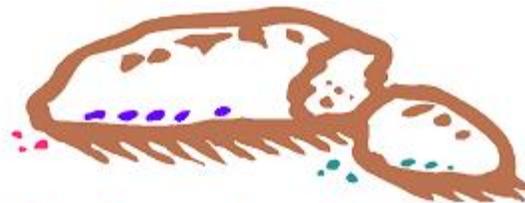




A Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming)
congregation
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

4th Sunday of Easter

**May 3, 2020
9:30 AM**



... they broke bread at home and
ate their food with glad and
generous hearts, praising God and
having the goodwill of all the people.



Acts 2:46-47, NRSV

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INTRODUCTION

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people.

The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monday, May 4, 2020

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Friday, May 8, 2020

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303

Friday, May 8, 2020

Known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

Saturday, May 9, 2020

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

CREDITS

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Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Made a Way

Verse 1: **Standing here not knowing how We'll get through this test But holding onto faith You know best
Nothing can catch You by surprise, You've got this Figured out, and You're watching us now**

Verse 2: **But when it looks as if we can't win You wrap us in your arm and step in
Ev'rything we need, You supply, You've got this In control, and now we know that**

Chorus 1: **You made a way when our backs Were against the wall And it looked as if it was over
You, You made a way and we're standing here Only because You made a way**

Verse 3: **Now we're looking back on Where we've come from Because of You and nothing we've done
To deserve the love and mercy You've shown But Your grace was strong enough to pick us up**

Bridge 1: **You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With your power, You perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible And we're standing here Only because You made a way**

Bridge 2: **You move mountains, You cause walls to fall With Your power, You perform miracles
There is nothing that's impossible
And we're standing here Only because You made a way
And we're standing here Only because You made a way
We're standing here Only because You made a way**

Chorus 2: **You made a way, You made a way You made a way, You made a way**

Tag: **Don't know how, but You did it, made a way Don't know how, but You did it, made a way
Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it
Don't know how but You did it Don't know how but you did it**

Chorus 3: **Don't know why but I'm grateful Don't know why but I'm grateful
Don't know why but I'm grateful Don't know why but I'm grateful
Don't know why but I'm grateful**

Tag: **And we're standing here only because You made a way**

CCLI Song # 7071768. Travis Greene

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WELCOME

In the name of the risen Christ, welcome to virtual church! We are glad to have you worship with us!

You can find us at our website: www.SalemBridgeport.org ,
on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport , and on our [YouTube Channel](#): Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT.

You can enable closed captioning in Facebook by going to Settings / Accessibility / Subtitles & Captioning on your device.

You can enable closed captioning in YouTube by clicking on the 3 dots in the upper right corner and going to Captions.

Links to this worship bulletin, to the sermon, to our donate page, and to other resources are included on our website and FB page.

As we worship, please note that unless otherwise indicated, parts in normal font are read by the pastor, leader or lector
while responses in bold font are read by the congregation.

OPENING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW # 715

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you,
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see,**

Refrain: **Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled, Longing for hope, many despair,
Your word alone has pow'r to save us, Make us your living voice. (Refrain)**
3. **Longing for food, many are hungry, Longing for water, many still thirst,
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (Refrain)**
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless, Longing for warmth, many are cold,
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)**
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, Many the hearts that yearn to belong,
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (Refrain)**

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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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. (*a brief silence*)

God of all power & love, you raised Jesus from the dead & poured your Spirit out in full measure on the apostles.

Pour your Spirit into us so that we, too, may do signs & wonders & change the world just like they did. **Amen**

Word

FIRST READING – Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. ⁴⁶They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, ⁴⁷praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL – Mark 6:7-9, 12-13

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark!

Glory to you, O Lord!

⁷Then Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. ⁸ He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. ⁹ They were to wear sandals but, he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.” ...

¹²And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. ¹³They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Gospel of Our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

The Reverend Marjo Anderson

SONG OF THE DAY

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW # 656

1. **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
2. **Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**
3. **We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
4. **From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt. This song is in the public domain.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

I believe in God, who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts.

I believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river and so created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.

I believe in Jesus,

who turned water into wine, partied with outcasts and sinners, & touched the broken so they could leap & dance.

I believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

who prompts us to smile, who sends us invitations to come and dine, who nudges us to openness and tenderness.

I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread

and is always urging us to live joyfully and walk hopefully.

Forever, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to resurrection joy. Amen

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.

In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.

May it be so!

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection,
we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Individual worshipers are invited to read aloud petitions as moved by the Spirit.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church.
Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for New Directions Ministries and Christ Presbyterian Church Fairfield,
and for our Salem members and families, especially those celebrating their birthdays this week:
Hannah Wilkins, Bonnie McWain, Fran Zold, Isaiah Vazquez, Nancy D'Andrea, and Beverly Marshall.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment,
for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind.
Strengthen their hands as they feed the world.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want.
Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways,
so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly.
We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering,
especially Barbara, Jerry, Andrea, Audry, Diane, Dolores, Dawn, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve,
and all we name in our hearts.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry.
Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations.
May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death.
We thank you for their lives of faithful witness.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give, and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Give us the confidence to cheerfully give our tithes & offerings of time, talent & treasure to your work in this place, trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs. We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen



OFFERING

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings. Although our building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT is closed at present, our financial obligations continue and we are dependent upon your generosity.

If you are watching and are part of another faith community, we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first, and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here at Salem, we would be most grateful.

Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click “donate” or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

OFFERTORY SONG

Bind Us Together, Lord

W&P # 18

Refrain: **Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together with love.**

- 1. There is only one God, there is only one King,
there is only one Body, that is why we sing: (Refrain)**
- 2. Made for the glory of God, purchased by His precious Son;
Born with the right to be clean, for Jesus the victory has won. (Refrain)**
- 3. You are the family of God, You are the promise divine;
You are God's chosen desire, You are the glorious new wine. (Refrain)**

CCLI Song # 1228. © 1977 Thankyou Music. Reprinted with permission under CCLI # 11092038.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*

God of all love and all power,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

May the power of the Spirit empower you to see God more clearly, love God more dearly, and follow God more nearly day by day. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians / We Are One in the Spirit

1. **We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

Refrain: **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

2. **We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *(Refrain)***
3. **We will work with each other; we will work side by side. We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *(Refrain)***
4. **All praise to the Father, from whom all things come; And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son;
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one: *(Refrain)***

CCLI Song # 26997. Fr. Peter Scholtes Reprinted with permission under CCLI # 11092038.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and may the God of All Power and Love work signs and wonders in and through you!

Thanks be to God!

Announcements

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
our building at 3160 Park Avenue has been closed until further notice and in-person worship and meetings cancelled.*

**Even though the church building is closed, if we can help in any way,
please know that you can still call the church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message
and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned.
Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.**

*Pastor Marjo and our Office Manager, Karl, will be working primarily from their homes.
Pastor Marjo plans to come in on Sundays to stream worship and Karl plans to come in once a week
to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely.*

Worship will be streamed from the sanctuary via FacebookLive and YouTube at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Please join us!

If you'd like to help lead worship please text or call Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.

If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays, the video will be saved to Facebook and YouTube so you can watch it later.

Both the Sunday bulletin & the sermon will be available on our website at SalemBridgeport.org

***Please email announcements, prayer requests, thanksgivings and God-sightings
to the Church Office at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net so they can be distributed to the congregation.***

***If your Salem committee or group would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Karl
by emailing him at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net or by leaving a message on the church phone, 203-336-3300.***

Even though the building is closed, our financial obligations continue.

We encourage you to continue to support Salem as generously as you can.

***Also, in order to protect our staff and volunteers from having to spend time in the building, handling cash and checks,
we strongly urge you to make your donations online.***

Just click on the donate tab at SalemBridgeport.org, and follow the instructions.

It takes less than 5 minutes the first time and you can set it up for automatic payments if you want.

***If you need help accessing Facebook or our website or donating online,
please call Karl so we can get you the help you need.***

And if you need pastoral care – even just to talk – please don't hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441.