



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

5th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

9:30 AM



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[YouTube](#) –
Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, healing in the name of Jesus is hardly believed by many people, yet in Acts we see disciples performing miracles of all kinds.

Even though we live in the 21st century, we Christians need to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit and to understand that Jesus is still at work in and among believers, just as he was in the early Church.

The beggar was hoping for money for food to provide for his immediate physical needs, but Peter and John didn't give him what he asked for – they gave him more.

They didn't provide a temporary fix to provide food, but went beyond to heal his lameness so he would not need to beg again.

And they gave the man something even more life-changing – new life in the Spirit of the living Christ.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Matthias, Apostle

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot.

He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry.

Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

CREDITS

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Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Our God

1. Water You turned into wine, Opened the eyes of the blind!
There's no one like You! None like You!

2. Into the darkness You shine! Out of the ashes we rise!
There's no one like You! None like You!

Chorus: Our God is greater! Our God is stronger!
God You are higher than any other!
Our God is healer, Awesome in power. our God, our God!

2. Into the darkness You shine! Out of the ashes we rise!
There's no one like You! None like You!

Chorus: Our God is greater! Our God is stronger!
God You are higher than any other!
Our God is healer, Awesome in power. our God, our God!

Chorus: Our God is greater! Our God is stronger!
God You are higher than any other!
Our God is healer, Awesome in power. our God, our God!

Bridge: And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
(Then) what could stand against?

Chorus: Our God is greater! Our God is stronger!
God You are higher than any other!
Our God is healer, Awesome in power. our God, our God!

Bridge: And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
(Then) what could stand against?
What could stand against? What could stand against?

CCLI Song # 5677416

Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

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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 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

CCLI Song # 5562882

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Tune: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth,

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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 and love, Jesus sent his disciples to continue his work of preaching and teaching and healing. Pour your Spirit out in abundant measure on your people here that we may be filled with new life to share with all. **Amen**

Word

FIRST READING – Acts 3:1-10

¹One day, when Peter and John were going up to the Temple for prayer at about three in the afternoon, ²a person who from birth was unable to walk was being carried in. Every day the individual was brought to the Temple gate called “the Beautiful”, to beg from people as they came in. ³Seeing Peter and John on their way in, the person being carried begged them for alms. ⁴Peter fixed his gaze on the individual, as did John. “Look at us!” Peter said. ⁵The person looked at them intently, hoping to get something. ⁶Then Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give you! In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!” ⁷Peter pulled the person up by the right hand. Immediately the beggar’s ankles and feet became strong; ⁸the individual jumped up, stood for a moment, began to walk around, then went into the Temple with them — walking, jumping about, and praising God. ⁹When the people saw the beggar walking and giving praise to God, ¹⁰they recognized the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. They were struck with astonishment — utterly stupefied at what had happened.

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL – Mark 6:53-56

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark!

Glory to you, O Lord!

⁵³After crossing the lake, Jesus and the disciples came ashore at Gennesaret and tied up their boat there. ⁵⁴No sooner had they stepped out of the boat than people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵The crowds started hurrying about the countryside and brought the sick on stretchers wherever Jesus went. ⁵⁶Wherever he appeared — in villages, in towns or in the countryside — they laid down the sick in the open places, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched Jesus got well.”

The Gospel of Our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

The Reverend Marjo Anderson

SONG OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

as recorded by Michael W. Smith

**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.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; God's Word my hope secures.
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, you called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.
You are forever mine. We are forever thine.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.**

**My chains are gone. I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood God's mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.
unending love, amazing grace,
unending love, amazing grace.**

*Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
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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,
and 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
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.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house.
Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love.
We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment.
With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,
we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for GROUP Workcamps,
& for Salem members & families, especially Ray Lansing, celebrating his birthday this week.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation.
Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made,
including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers,
and other forces that both destroy and create.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations
as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy & weighed down by many troubles.
Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens,
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, we pray for those who tend and teach young children,
for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents,
and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage.
We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care,
and we remember all for whom this day is difficult.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died.
Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life.
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 o
ur 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 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul) Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman
(Steve Kuczo, vocalist)

Streamed with permission under CCLI # 11092038. Song # 6016351.

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 —
ourselves, 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 God not only heal your brokenness,
but fill you with so much life and love,
that joy makes your soul leap and dance in praise!

Amen

SENDING HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW # 860

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
Singing, "Glory! Hallelujah!"
Jesus lifted me! (*instrumental interlude*)

Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me!
Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me!
Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me!
Singing, "Glory! Hallelujah!"
Jesus lifted me! (*instrumental interlude*)

When I was in trouble Jesus lifted me!
When I was in trouble Jesus lifted me!
When I was in trouble Jesus lifted me!
Singing, "Glory! Hallelujah!"
Jesus lifted me! (*instrumental interlude*)

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me!
Singing, "Glory! Hallelujah!"
Jesus lifted me!
Singing, "Glory! Hallelujah!"
Jesus lifted me!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trust in God's healing power,
and proclaim God's healing love.

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

*Coffee Hour, Bible Study, meetings and other events are being held online via Zoom. Just go to our website at SalemBridgeport.org, click on the Resources tab, then on Calendar. On the calendar just find the day and click on the event and a zoom invitation will appear.
Sometimes you may have to click on "(+2 more)" in order to see additional events that don't fit in the calendar square.*

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.

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.

*Even though the building is closed, our ministry continues with online worship, Bible study, and outreach programs.
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.*

Food Pantry Update

I guess all good things must someday come to an end! Unfortunately, Salem's pantry fits the mold. For a multitude of reasons, we have decided to close our doors. The coronavirus served as the catalyst and gave us the opportunity to stop and assess "where we've been and how we could move forward".



The age of Salem's volunteers was paramount in our decision as well as not having younger member(s) to take the pantry into the future. A severe decline in financial support — and the fact that Salem's facility is up for sale also factored into our decision. And finally, my health is such that I am unable to continue overseeing the operation. For me, and for all our volunteers God was saying "well done good and faithful servants, now it's time to rest".



I want to thank everyone who helped get the pantry established and by sustaining it through many hours of volunteering or with financial donations. For this I thank you very much.

Joe Bales