



# Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## *The Resurrection of Our Lord!*

*Easter Day*

*March 31, 2024  
9:30 AM*

“He has risen  
from the dead ...”

Matthew 28:7, NIV



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[www.facebook.com/salembridgeport](https://www.facebook.com/salembridgeport)  
[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/SalemLutheranChurch) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

# Welcome to Worship!

**We want you to feel safe** so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (A big thank you to Bill Winter for getting our 3<sup>rd</sup> one repaired!). There is also one running in the lounge for when we have worship, coffee hour, or adult forums there. You are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like. And if you are a worship leader, please know that there are disposable covers for the microphone available as well.

**Today we celebrate the most important event in human history – that God raised Jesus from the dead! And if God can do that, then God has the power and the love to do absolutely anything for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose.** Resurrection, however, is not simply a one-time event in history, nor is it simply a one-time event in our personal lives, but we experience resurrection over and over again as Christ comes in the midst of depression, despair, and even death, with new and glorious abundant life – at which point we exclaim again with Mary, “I have seen the Lord!”

**You are invited to join us for a Celebratory Service on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.,** as we gather together to rejoice and remember the 137 years of our congregation's life and service in Bridgeport, CT. Although Salem will be concluding its ministry (with a leave-taking service on April 14), we have much to celebrate and be thankful for during our time together in this place. We hope you can join us on this special occasion. Our worship will be enriched by your participation since you have been a part of God's ministry at Salem over the years. Our service will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment when you'll have the chance to renew relationships and share reminiscences. If you will be able to join us, please text or call the church office at 203-336-3300 or email the church at [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net). Your response TODAY would be appreciated.

**Counting today there are just 3 Sundays left for us to gather together as Salem.** If you have decided which congregation God is calling you to join, please give us written notice, either by text, email, or letter no later than April 14<sup>th</sup>. You may text the church phone 203-336-3300 and Pastor Marjo 203-982-3441, or send an email to [salemsec123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemsec123@sbcglobal.net) and [marjoanderson@aol.com](mailto:marjoanderson@aol.com), or mail a letter to the church at 3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport 06604. For those of you who discern a call to another ELCA congregation, Pastor Marjo will transfer your membership. For those of you who discern a call to a congregation in another denomination, we can't transfer you, but we can give you a letter of good-standing if you so desire.

**The Need is Great - You Can Help.** Over 10 percent of Connecticut adults say they do not have enough money to buy food. According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 380,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; more than 83,000 children are food insecure. These people include your neighbors. You can make a difference. You can help "**Refill the Pantries.**" Ten collections are planned in 2024 to support five food pantries in the area. Last year's nine food drives contributed 17,700 pounds of food and over \$12,000 to the pantries. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 6.** Our first collection will be at the Stop&Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport, for the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry. Volunteer time slots are available 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5:00. You can sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or [rlansing@optonline.com](mailto:rlansing@optonline.com).

# Gathering

**PRELUDE:** Overture and Menuet I G. F. Handel, Arr. Thomas/Neu  
from Music for the Royal Fireworks

*We welcome our brass players this morning:  
Paul Marino, Trumpet; John Pearson, Trumpet; Bill Sagalski, Trombone*

*Please note that here we go live on Facebook.*

## WELCOME

**Today we celebrate the most important event in human history –  
that God raised Jesus from the dead!  
And if God can do that, then God has the power and the love to do absolutely anything  
for those who love God and are called according to God’s purpose.**

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!  
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don’t know me,

I am Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,

you can go to our website [SalemBridgeport.org](http://SalemBridgeport.org), to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,  
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –

which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources  
are included on our website at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live).

**We invite you to join our daily noon prayer** via the conference line listed in today’s bulletin,  
**to join our Wednesday noon prayer and our Wednesday 6:30 Bible Study**

**On Saturday we will have our first of this year’s Refill the Pantry food collections**  
at the Stop & Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport. Details are in your bulletin.

**Next Sunday 4/7 is our closing festival public worship at 9:30,**  
followed by refreshments and fellowship time.

**The following Sunday 4/14 will be our leave-taking worship & lunch for active members only.**

**Please note that all zoom links can be found on our calendar on our website  
and more info on upcoming events, see our worship bulletin at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live)**

Any other announcements? Any prayer requests or God-sightings?

Then, I invite you to join in our Easter Proclamation, followed by our opening hymn:

## \*EASTER PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**OPENING HYMN**

**Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

**“Easter Hymn” from Festival Hymns for Organ, Brass & Timpani  
by Melchior Vulpius, Arr. John Ferguson**

*Paul Marino, Trumpet; John Pearson, Trumpet; Bill Sagalski, Trombone  
Pastor Marjo Anderson, Piano*

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 365)*

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

*Text: based on Matthew 28:6, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-7,  
Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.;  
Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4; Meter 7 7 7 7 and alleluias*

*Music: EASTER HYMN by J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708  
The Text and Music are in the Public Domain.*

*If not live, performance by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln NE, 04/01/18  
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkWaoJZGvsA> [4:42]*

# Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

# Word

*Please be seated.*

## **A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

**"The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

**The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

**"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."**

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**



## **A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*The core of the Christian faith & Paul's preaching is the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers,  
so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

## **A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 16:1-8**

*You may stand if you so desire.*

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*Please be seated.*

**Pastor Marjo**

**HYMN OF THE DAY      Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!**

**“Gelobt Sei Gott” from Festival Hymns for Organ, Brass & Timpani  
by Melchior Vulpius, Arr. John Ferguson**

*Paul Marino, Trumpet; John Pearson, Trumpet; Bill Sagalski, Trombone  
Pastor Marjo Anderson, Piano*

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s worship book,  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 385)*

**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our king!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;  
let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Text: John 10:17-18 by Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.; Meter 8 8 8 and alleluias*

*Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615*

*Text © 1952, ren. 1980 Hymns Ancient & Modern*

*(admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).*

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*Music is in the Public Domain*

*Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372*

*Performance by Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis,*

*Introduction played at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, 05/07/17*

*stanzas sung on 04/01/18*

*as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADubyet6Kk8> [3:09]*



*You may stand if you so desire.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in God who created us and all that is,  
who loves us and desires our love in return.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
& every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God our Creator.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who calls us into relationship with God,  
who gathers us in relationship with the whole human family,  
who enlightens our minds, enlarges our hearts, and enables our bodies,  
and who sanctifies us by helping us to grow in faith and hope and obedience to God's will.**

**It is this Triune God – the three in one and one in three – whom we worship and adore  
and to whom we offer all that we are and all that we have. 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,  
that we may encounter God, build relationships, and change lives.**

May it be so!

**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**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please be seated.*

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church.

Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility.

Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world.

We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Good Shepherd, Grace, Our Saviour's, and the other congregations of our Southern CT conference of our synod & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

For Bridgeport schools, especially Fairchild Wheeler High School,  
to become known among the best in Connecticut.

We pray for Salem members & their families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:  
Dave Albers, Bob Reichelt, and Pastor Marjo.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation.

Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life,  
that together we may proclaim Resurrection hope.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Teach leaders your way of justice.

Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse.

Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news.

Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness.

Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day.

We pray especially today for Austin, Barbro, Barry, Bob, Boni, Bruce, Bud, Christopher, Cindy, Cliffy, Clyde, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Dolores, Dorothy, Francesca, Ivy, Janice, Jasmina, Jeanette, Jeff, Jessica, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Karen, Kevin, Lynn, Marija, Mary Lou, Melvin Jr, Melvin Sr, MJ, Pastor Paula, Sara, Sasha, VL,  
and all we name in our hearts & on our lips.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst.

Feed us at your table and your pulpit with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death,

especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith.

Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.*

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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 and offerings of time, talent and 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 INVITATION *Please be seated.*

In response to God’s grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.  
We are grateful for your generosity,  
which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,  
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation, we encourage you to give to it first,  
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also  
so that we can continue to take our worship online  
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.  
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 ANTHEM**

**Now the Green Blade Riseth**

**John Carter**

# Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated.*

**We invite you to join our daily noon prayer** via the conference line listed in today's bulletin,  
**to join our Wednesday noon prayer and our Wednesday 6:30 Bible Study**

**On Saturday we will have our first of this year's Refill the Pantry food collections**  
at the Stop & Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport. Details are in your bulletin.

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**Please note that all zoom links can be found on our calendar on our website**  
**and more info on upcoming events,**  
**see our worship bulletin at [SalemBridgeport.org/Live](http://SalemBridgeport.org/Live)**

## THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.  
I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray together,  
you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

## BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer this blessing to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and online:  
based on our reading from the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Mark:

Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He is not here. He has been raised!

He is going ahead of you and you will see him, just as he told you!

Believe it, receive it, and claim it as done! Alleluia! Amen!

*Here ends our Facebook live stream.*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
 For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
 For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
 For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world Is become The kingdom of our Lord & of His Christ & of His Christ

And He shall reign for ever and ever! And He shall reign for ever and ever!  
 And He shall reign for ever and ever! For ever and ever! Forever and ever!  
 And He shall reign for ever and ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 And Lord of lords! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 King of kings! (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 And Lord of lords! (King of kings!) And Lord of lords!

And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign, And He shall reign forever & ever!

King of kings! (Forever and ever!) And Lord of lords! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)  
 And He shall reign! (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever!

King of kings! and Lord of lords! King of kings! and Lord of lords!  
 And He shall reign forever and ever!

Forever and ever! Forever and ever!  
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
 Hallelujah!

*Messiah is an oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel,  
 with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens  
 from the King James Bible, and from the Coverdale Psalter,  
 the version of the Psalms included with the Book of Common Prayer.  
 The text and music are in the Public Domain.*

# Meal & Dismissal

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

God's love is infinite and unconditional.

As individuals we have only to accept it and live in its light.

The moment we confess, we are forgiven.

As together we gather for worship, so together we confess our sins as our community,  
and together we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, we confess:

**that too often we focus on the things we lack,**

**that too often we are attached to our own personal agendas,**

**that too often we insist on doing things our own way,**

**that too often we are oblivious to the needs for justice around us.**

God who has heard our confession both forgives and forgets every failing. **Amen!**

Loving God, teach us:

**to see your amazing abundance rather than any lack,**

**to listen more - to you and to each other - and to talk less,**

**to trust in your power and not our own,**

**to build relationships with those who are not like us.**

God who has given us the will to do these things ✚

graciously gives us the power to perform them. **Amen!**

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

**And also with you!**

**We open them to God and one another!**

**It is right to give God thanks & praise!**

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

**Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen**

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship  
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

*If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.*

*After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen**

## DISMISSAL

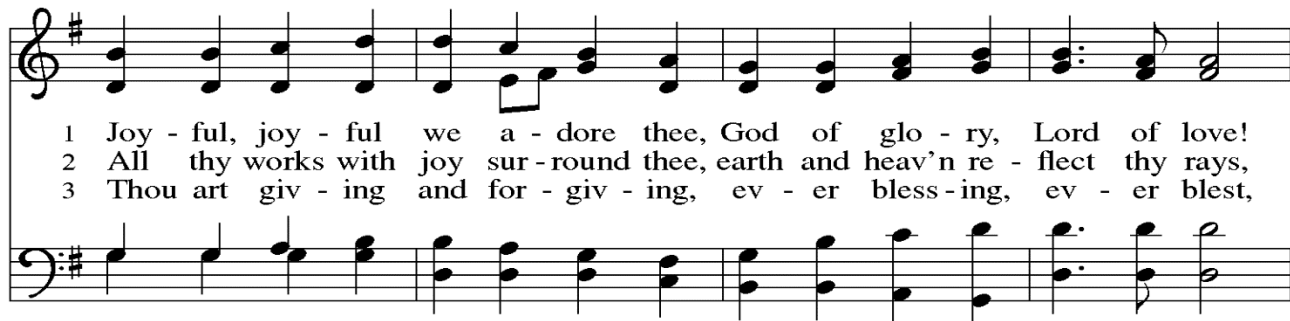
Go in peace,  
and may you see the risen Lord and be a witness to God's boundless power and endless love!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

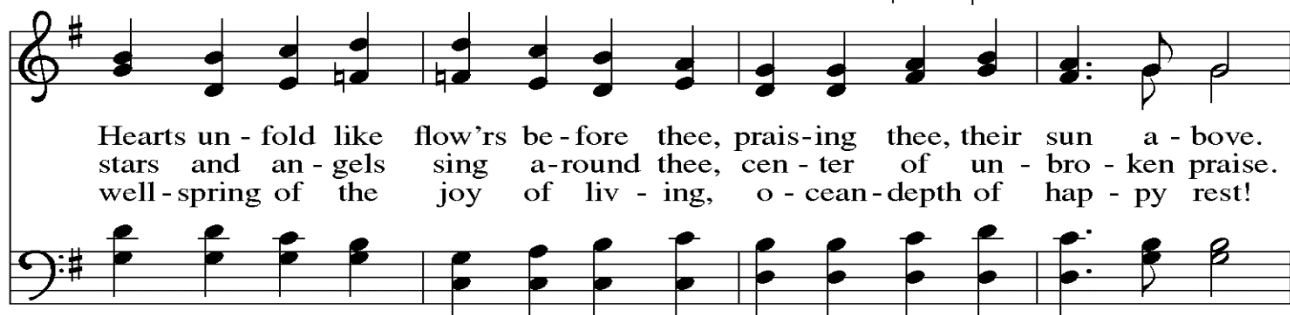
## Ode to Joy Beethoven, arr. David R. Thomas

*Paul Marino, Trumpet; John Pearson, Trumpet; Bill Sagalski, Trombone  
Pastor Marjo Anderson, Piano*

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922  
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.



## CREDITS

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

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## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**John Donne, poet, died 1631**

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

**Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024**

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

**Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

# Announcements

**Please remember to put 11:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month on your calendar so that you won't miss the opportunity to join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café for their monthly Inner-View Chat and Chew. The next date is April 20.** For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or [jharris524@yahoo.com](mailto:jharris524@yahoo.com) .

**Camp Calumet is hosting the first Fruits & Roots midweek adult retreat.** The retreat will be April 22-25, 2024. The focus will be on one of the fruits of the Spirit, JOY, as we meet for theme sessions led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet, and mystery writer from Kittery, Maine. Deacon Judy Smith will be coordinating the program, including devotions and retreat activities. Gary Benevides, long time Calumet summer guest in our campground and music director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon, CT, will be our retreat guest musician. Opportunities are already scheduled to experience various art media facilitated by guest artists in Calumet's new Pippi Art Space in the Oasis and/or to participate in writing workshops led by Rev. Tirabassi. On Monday evening we will enjoy and participate in a joyful concert by the Funky Divas of Gospel who will get our feet tapping, our hands clapping, and our voices singing with their gospel, soul, and rock music rooted in universal stories. Our Wednesday evening program "Maple, New Hampshire's Medicine of Connection" with Vermont theologian, Dr. Damian Costello, will connect us to the land, our ancestors, and all that surrounds us. We will learn about indigenous wisdom, a communal medicine of connection. We are grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities to Go Program for sponsoring this evening program open to the public.

**Like our prayer breakfasts, a lunch is held each month to build relationships** among Lutheran and other congregations in our area at noon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. **The next date is April 27.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, [bltomasko@yahoo.com](mailto:bltomasko@yahoo.com).

**As Salem continues its ministry through April, expenses continue as well.** If we are to give the maximum amount of our assets, we are depending on YOU to fulfill your pledge for this year & to continue your giving in 2024. While we can cover expenses from our endowment, we would much rather be able to celebrate the commitment and generosity of each & every one of our members!

**As important as your financial contributions are, please remember that YOU are even more important than your money!** Showing up for prayer, Bible study, Salem activities, and ecumenical events – either in person or on zoom or on conference calls – is just as impactful and sometimes more impactful than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

**We encourage you to grow in your relationship with God.** And what better way than through talking to God and listening to God? That's exactly what happens when we pray

and when we read & study scripture. We can do those things on our own, of course, but when we do them together it's far more impactful – kind of like addition and multiplication. Praying and studying on our own is like adding  $4 + 4$  which gives you 8, but praying and studying together is like multiplying  $4 \times 4$  which gives you 16. Certainly, we are “better together”.

**And so we invite you to join us for:**

\* **our prayer line at noon Monday-Friday** for a time of prayer. You can pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers. The number 681-999-0232, access code 673980#, is also listed on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org.

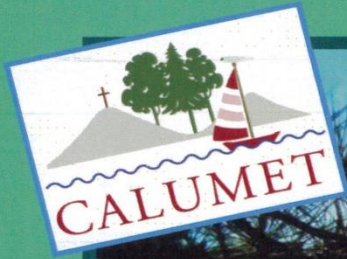
\* **our weekly Prayer Gathering Wednesdays at noon on zoom.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . If you cannot access zoom just let Pastor Marjo or Jeanette Harris know and you can join one of us via speakerphone; and

\* **our evening Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans.** Due to Pastor Marjo's and Jeanette Harris' schedules we will only be meeting some Wednesdays during Lent, so please check the calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . You'll find the zoom link there, and, if you cannot access zoom, just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone.

**You have another opportunity for Bible Study as well on zoom on Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30.** This group, led by Pastor Rip Hoffman, looks at the gospel for the coming Sunday. For the link, contact Pastor Marjo or Pastor Hoffman.

**You are invited to join the Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris on Mondays 4:00-5:00 on zoom.** The group began in the fall of 2020 as a response of our Southern CT Lutheran pastors to the murder of George Floyd, but has grown into a diverse group that includes people who are White and Black, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, and Rastafarian, clergy and lay, and from CT, MA, and DE. Some come every week while others drop in as their schedule permits. The link is on Salem's calendar, so please drop in and see what God is doing to help us fulfill our baptismal call to work for justice!





## Fruits & Roots at Calumet

April 22-25

*A Midweek Retreat for Adults*

Optional  
no-cost coach bus for  
guests from  
southern New  
England! We're  
giving it a try.

*Reflect by the lake as we explore **JOY** –  
a fruit of the Spirit!*

## FRUITS & ROOTS

Come join us for a midweek adult retreat at  
beautiful Camp Calumet!

Monday afternoon, April 22 – Thursday lunch, April 25, 2024

*Explore the theme of **JOY**, one of the Fruits of the  
Spirit, with the Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet,  
and a mystery writer.*

What to look forward to:

*Meet new & old friends ... enjoy God's creation & fantastic  
food ... experience devotions & worship with Deacon Judy  
Smith and music with Gary Benevides (Trinity, Vernon) ...  
create in the new Pippi Art Space ... opt to travel to Calumet  
on the "no cost" coach bus with stops in CT & MA or travel  
here & back on your own ...*

Special evening programs:

- **JOY**-filled Concert with "The Funky Divas of Gospel"
- **ROOTS** of Maple Sugaring with Dr. Damian Costello

To register or learn more:

Alice at 603-539-4773 x220 or [alice@calumet.org](mailto:alice@calumet.org)

*Many thanks to Emanuel Lutheran in Hartford for covering  
the coach bus. Guests will travel to/from Calumet for free.*

Also in April: "Grief, Wonder, Hope" – a retreat for  
folks who have experienced loss & challenging life  
changes in a safe, beautiful, & hope-filled place.  
APR 28-30 – [www.calumet.org/griefwonderhope](http://www.calumet.org/griefwonderhope)