



**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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Sunday, May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Online Edition

**WELCOME**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

**INTRODUCTION**

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ.

Let us confess our sin to God, who is faithful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God our helper, we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have faltered in the face of suffering. We have given up hope too readily. We have helped our friends but ignored strangers. We have lost ourselves in the love of our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you intend for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Lord God, We Praise You* (ELW 558)

### Lord God, We Praise You

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en, bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry, prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you. where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing. gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, 540–604; tr. composite  
Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

**The sea is yours for you made it; and your hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *You Are the Way* (ELW 758)

### You Are the Way

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment consisting of chords. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with four numbered lines of text.

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also features a treble clef staff with a melody line and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with four lines of text.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

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.  
Lord, 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.  
Lord, 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 (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens (*especially*). Lord, 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. Lord, 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. Lord, 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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.  
Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *We Come to You for Healing, Lord (ELW 617)*

## We Come to You for Healing, Lord

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of  
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and  
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through  
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through  
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -  
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of  
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.  
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.  
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824  
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