



Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Grace Lutheran, Franklin
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Hermitage
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Greenville

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

Service of the Word

Significance of the Day: 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

Prelude	Selections from Eight Preludes	(Thiman)
	Hymn Variation on <i>The Call</i>	(Fedak)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for
the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and
aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin
and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
 into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears
 and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lord God, We Praise You

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.

Easter Dialogue

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We are illumined by the brightness of his rising.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Death has no more dominion over us.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts:

55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 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. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 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

(The Psalm will be spoken in unison.)

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.**
- 2 Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver me.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.**
- 5 Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.**
- 15 My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who | persecute me.**
- 16 Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love."**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter:

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

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 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. 6 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."

7 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,"

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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? 3 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. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 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’? 10 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. 11 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. 12 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. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

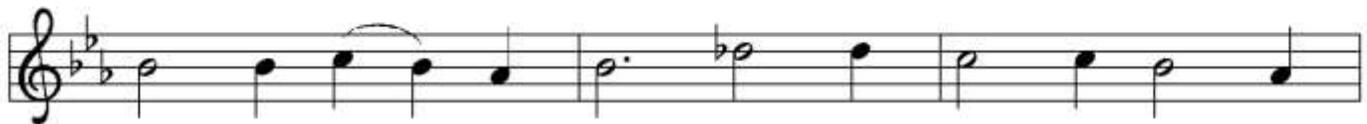
Pastor Judy Lamb

Hymn of the Day

Come My way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill
 length; such a strength as makes
 part; such a heart as joys
 eth death.
 his guest.
 in love.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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. **Sung response.**

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The first system of notation is for the first line of lyrics, and the second system is for the second line. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staves.

(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. We pray that all the faithful continue to be fed by your word, even as they aren't worshipping in their church buildings. We pray for those who lead, especially our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, deacons, musicians and other liturgical leaders. **Sung response**

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. We pray for our farmers. Sustain them financially as they seek to feed us. **Sung response**

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. We pray for state and national leaders as they fight the COVID virus as they attempt to balance health and economic issues. Help them do the best thing to sustain life for all their people. We pray for our president, Donald, and our governor, Tom. **Sung response**

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. We pray especially for those who have been furloughed from their jobs. Give them hope for the future. **Sung response**

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. **Sung response**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died, especially Jan, Charlie, Geraldine, Alice, Robert and John. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. **Sung response**

Are there others for whom we should pray?

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

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Postlude

Hymn Variation on *Hyfrydol*

(Young)

+ + + + + + + + + +

Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Pastor Judy Lamb, Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin
Pastor Gary Nelson, Hermitage
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris, retired, Mercyhurst University
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Please Pray For

Only first names are being used for privacy.

Please note that permission is needed to add anyone to the prayer list.

Health and Healing:

Belle
Dan
Dillon
Jan
Jennifer
Jim
Joe
Judy
Kate
Ken
Patty
Paul
Rick
Ron

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Barb
Charlie
Jan



In Military Service

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas R McQuiston, US Air Force, Middle East
Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces