

Family Worship for the Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020

God Bless All Mothers!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

L: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

L: Let us make our confession to God. **Almighty, God, merciful Father, I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise forever;

⁶**Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.**

⁷The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

⁸**The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

⁹The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

HYMN [Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds](#) (LBW #245, w/lyrics)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Living God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, the truth, and the life. Grant us grace to follow him in the way of servant living as have our mothers and fathers before us; **through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

GOSPEL VERSE (Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

L: The Holy Gospel from St. John, chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 14:1-14

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Hymn: God of Eve and God of Mary

God of Eve and God of Mary, God of love and mother earth, Thank you for the ones who with us Shared their life and gave us birth.	As you came to earth in Jesus, So you come to us today; You are present in the caring That prepares us for life's way.	God of Eve and God of Mary, Christ our brother, human son, Spirit, caring like a mother, Take our love and make us one.
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THE 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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

EASTER OFFERING *(Spoken; LBW #479, st. 1, 3)*

L: My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

R: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

THE 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.

AARONIC BLESSING *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.

L: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you

L: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

R: And give you peace. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

[Because He Lives](#) *(with Lyrics)*

Extra

[Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds](#) *(Hand Bells)*

[Resurrection Power](#) *(Contemporary, Chris Tomlin)*

[Remember My Mother](#) *(Bryan Duncan)*

[St. Stephen the Martyr](#)

EASTER READINGS

First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. [^{2a} And Stephen said:]

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," ⁸and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

¹{Jesus said,} “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

PRAYERS

- L: Help us to hunger for spiritual growth, O God, that we may live as your royal children in the world and proclaim salvation in the name of Jesus to all. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Lord God, your Son declared himself the way, the truth, and the life of the world. He came from you and has returned to you after redeeming our human nature. Grant us grace to follow him, believe all that he says, and return home to you where life is eternal and abundant in every way. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Rule over the nations, Lord God, and raise up righteous servants to lead well in this difficult time. Give wisdom to our President, Donald and our Governor, Brian, and keep us mindful of our duties to pray and work for peace in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Bless, O Lord, the ministry of Habitat for Humanity throughout the world and our local chapter led by Jimmy Rutland. May the housing they provide be a blessing and a reminder that you have prepared a house with many rooms for all who put their trust in you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Bless our mothers, Lord, who gave their love to us so freely. Let their hallowed presence in our hearts and memories remind us of the goodness of your love which works mightily in our lives. Help us to love them by returning our love and thanksgiving in every word and deed we offer them. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for Ethan and Cohen who face a first Mother's Day without their mother. Grant comfort in the midst of continuing sorrow to Jason Summers and Ronnie and Debra Jones and all who grieve the loss of their daughter Rebecca. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for Mr. Clyde Johnson and strength him in body and soul that he might recover his full health. Bless Natalie and Carl and Jordan as they give him care and keep them all in the safe keeping of your mighty hand. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for family and friends of the Halls, Aunt Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems and Great Aunt Katherine who has contracted the Coronavirus, and friend Izzy Wilkins, who recently had a tumor removed from her stomach; protect, heal and comfort them and their families. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Lord, it is the time for planting in our fields. Bless all who labor on our behalf to grow our food. We pray for a good crop this year that it may be sufficient to feed the many people who have found themselves unemployed in our current crisis. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for those who place themselves in harm's way to care for others: for all doctors, nurses and medical personnel, for police officers, jailers, firefighters and soldiers. As they carry out their duties to do good, keep them as the apple of your eye. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for the needs of others which we live before you now in our hearts..... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: We lift our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for May 3, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M; 5.10)

Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.3)

Katherine who is over 90 years old has the Coronavirus (Great Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.3)

Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls; 5.3)

Judi Zipperer, recovering at home from a heart procedure (4.26)

Jason Patterson (friend of S. Everett; 4.19)

Family of Deb Lowe: a granddaughter (Kelly) may have the virus. (4.19)

Betty Weathers (sister of Mary Dasher): whose daughter Tina died this past week. (4.19)

Timothy, Jackie, and Tanis Dasher: quarantined at home, Tim having tested positive for the Coronavirus. (4.12)

Dawn Cavanah: broken leg (3.12.2020)

Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z; 3.5.2020)

Carroll Zittrouer: surgery (Dorothy Zipperer Son-In-Law; 3.10.2020)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Family of Tim Uzupan (cousin of Karen Hall; 3.4.2020)

Renea Arnsdorff, comfort in the loss of her mother and her husband (3.1.2020)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton

Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Ryland Hampton, Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Reflections on the Reformers

Pastor Mark Ryman

[John 14:3–6](#)

From the Reformer

This Gospel text teaches exclusively of the Christian faith, and awakens that faith in us; just as John, throughout his whole Gospel, simply instructs us how to trust in Christ the Lord. This faith alone, when based upon the sure promises of God, must save us; as our text clearly explains. And in the light of it all, they must become fools who have taught us other ways to become godly. All that human ingenuity can devise, be it as holy and as luminous as it may, must tumble to the ground if man be saved in God's way—in a way different from that which man himself plans. Man may forever do as he will, he can never enter heaven unless God takes the first step with his Word, which offers him divine grace and enlightens his heart so as to get upon the right way.

This right way, however, is the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever desires to seek another way, as the great multitudes venture to do by means of their own works, has already missed the right way; for Paul says to the Galatians: "If righteousness is through the Law," that is, through the works of the Law, "then Christ died for naught" ([Gal 2:21](#)). Therefore I say man must fall upon this Gospel and be broken to pieces and in deep consciousness lie prostrate, like a man that is powerless, unable to move hand or foot. He must only lie motionless and cry: Almighty God, merciful Father, now help me! I cannot help myself. Christ, my Lord, do help now, for with only my own effort all is lost! Thus, in the light of this cornerstone, which is Christ, everyone becomes as nothing; as Christ says of himself in [Luke 20:17-18](#), when he asks the Pharisees and scribes: "What then is this that is written. The stone which the builders rejected, the same was made the head of the corner? Every one that falleth on that stone shall be 'broken to pieces; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will scatter him as dust'" ([Psa 118:22](#)). Therefore, we must either fall upon this stone, Christ, in all our inability and helplessness, rejecting our own merits, and be broken to pieces, or he will forever crush us by his severe sentence and judgment. It is better that we fall upon him than that he should fall upon us. For this reason the Lord says in this Gospel: "No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day." —Martin Luther, *Assorted Sermons*, "On Faith, And Coming To Christ"

Pulling It Together

At first he would not admit he had a problem but then, he went to his father for help. He told him that he would have to do this on his own and that all he had to do was white-knuckle it. Then, after years of struggling to control his abuse of alcohol, the man hit bottom, breaking into emotional, financial, physical, and spiritual pieces. No matter how much he had tried, alcohol was a part of his life that controlled him as often as otherwise. He needed help outside himself.

It is a similar condition that plagues humanity. It is also addicted; its addiction is to sin. No matter how it tries to be good, it is bad. Like the alcoholic who is not always drunk, the "good" person's life is touched by bouts and even binges of sin. Try as they might to be otherwise, all are sinners ([Rom 3:23](#)) and controlled by sin unless they seek assistance. The Father has a Way where you do not have to do it on your own, try harder, or just use more willpower. When the alcoholic walked through the door of his local AA meeting, he was on the road to recovery. When you walk through the Gate of God, the Father recovers you by his will—not yours, by his effort—not yours, by his grace—not by your goodness.

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Find the 29 bold words from John 14:1-7 (ESV)

D R U Q G T H K P H S B E F U
T H O M A S D G O Y E E X A X
E R A P E R P U U L E D C Z K
F C G D O G S T I O N S E A H
G A A L U E O E N T R P P B B
O T T L Q O V W I K B H T S I
Y R D H P E Y C A G N M T T N
W O T J E S U S G Z A O M R W
E U O Q W R X V A N O Y W A L
K B Y F P F T K Y D L O T E C
A L A I L G E R L I F E Y H O
T E W E N L P M U E Y S A F M
L D S I E R W Q O T N T A D E
A Y O T B Q T F V C **H** T M X S
M G S M O O R E K R H Q R G M

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have **told** you that I go to **prepare** a **place** for you? And if I go and **prepare** a place for you, I will **come again** and will **take you to myself**, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." **Thomas** said to him, "**Lord**, we do not know where you are **going**. How can we know the way?" **Jesus** said to him, "I am the way, and the **truth**, and the **life**. No one **comes** to the **Father except through** me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do **know him** and have **seen him**."

He Who Keeps Faith Forever

Find the 47 bold words from Psalm 146:3-9 (ESV)

S T F I L N F A D F A I T H E
U R P L E H B R E A T H S C E
O R E V O O F Q P T S U R T R
E M A N C O J H A H R Z S B G
T E P A R O P P R E S S E D C
H S J E L U Q T T R A Z H D S
G G V S O M O U S L S R C E D
I E I D V K R J V E Y N T N L
R C V H E N H A O S C U A H O
W I R E S S T U L S C N W L H
I T P P R I S O N E R S I C P
D S S F O Y R E X G G D C R U
O U V N O D P E L U R A K P P
W J D E W O B R P B E Y E S Z
N I U R H G D F B L I N D M L

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.