

Service of Prayer and Proclamation

May 10, 2020 • The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
Charleston, WV

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 291

Brief time of silence to think on God's Word and the sin we need to confess

C O almighty God, merciful Father, we poor miserable sinners, confess unto You all our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But we are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to us, poor, sinful beings.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 291

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Easter 5

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 147

Praise | the LORD!*

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.

Put not your trust in | princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

Blessèd 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 for- | ever;

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.

The LORD will reign for- | ever,*

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

THE FIRST READING

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

P A reading from Acts:

Now 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. And 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. Therefore, 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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And 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. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And 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.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then 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. . . .

And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then 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. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2–10

P A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. For 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.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

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

But 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. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

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

[Jesus said:] “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.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus 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’? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“Truly, 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. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON

God at Work

APOSTLES' CREED

P I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As newborn infants who long for the pure spiritual milk, so let us come before the Lord seeking His mercy with confidence that His grace will be sufficient for all our needs. *Brief silence*

Almighty Father, everlasting God, Your Son has revealed You to us as a merciful Lord. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that we may believe in Him whom You have sent and do the greater works He has told us we will do in His name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You have promised to build up Your Church to be a holy priesthood, that Your people might offer the spiritual sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving acceptable to You. Bless Your Church and bring all congregations back together again. Bless all pastors who proclaim Christ to us. Bless all church workers and those preparing for full-time church vocations, that Your Church may be supplied with faithful leaders and servants of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still You preserve what You have made. Bless our president, the Congress of these United States, our governor, and all elected and appointed civil servants so that they may honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue and protecting all life. Give wisdom and moderation to them in their leadership for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O merciful Father, You have compassion upon the sick and those in need and have promised not to ignore them in their afflictions. Turn back the pandemic across the globe, and give us relief. Bless the sick with healing, those who suffer with strength and patience, and the dying with peace. Hear us on behalf of those who have requested our prayers. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You have established the home and blessed those who show us Your love. Bless all mothers and the children in their care. Bless all families and make their homes places of blessing and love, where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness reigns and love is displayed. Give us good examples to inspire youth to all that is good and pure, and to seek after these things. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have given us the wisdom of faith that through the Spirit we might know Your Son to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all those who teach and all who learn, that the goal of our knowledge may be to know Christ and to make Him known. Do not let Your Word be bound, but let it have free course among us. Preserve those in isolation from idleness, and instead let our minds be renewed in Scripture and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Father, You are not aloof from the needs of this body and life, and You have called us to love our neighbor in need and give aid to the poor. Give us courage and faith, that we may not fear sharing the resources You have supplied with those who live in want, especially the widow, the orphan and the unemployed. Let love be perfected among us to drive out selfish fears. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father of an eternal mercy, You have raised up witnesses in every age and blessed us with those who endured suffering and even death in faithfulness to Christ. We give You thanks for these faithful saints and martyrs, and we pray You to make us strong when we face the day of test, that at length we may be brought with them into the joy of Your presence and the glory of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise You, God, for Your goodness in hearing the prayers of Your people and granting us confidence to approach Your throne of mercy. Hear us now in the name of and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

THE SIXTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

Answer: God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

THE SEVENTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

Answer: We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This petition has been found in some of the ancient transcripts of Scripture and was used by some of the Church Fathers. most likely started as a liturgical response between the priest and the people as a response to the Lord's Prayer. This petition, is surely biblical as see in **1 Chronicles 29:11** where we hear King David blessing the Lord: *"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head above all."*

What does this mean?

Answer: This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

Thus, we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**☐ Our Father which 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.**

BENEDICTION (Aaronic)

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Quotes from Small Catechism: Paul Timothy McCain, ed., Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 331 - 334

PRAYER LIST

Melody Trierwiler will undergo some testing for possible kidney stones on Monday.

Bill Shell (father of Kelli Ruffatto) remains in ICU in Knoxville following a serious heart attack; his condition has declined as of Saturday. Kelli and her family were able to visit with him in person on Saturday afternoon.

Baby Axel Beckman has arrived! (newborn son of John and Lindsey Beckman) born May 4th at 7:42 p.m.! 7 lbs 10 oz, 20.5 inches long. Mom pushed for less than an hour. Boy came out screaming. Mom and baby doing great!

Ali (friend of Kelly Reimert) received initial results from the heart monitor and has begun a new medication

Herb Pauley (father of Tina Clark) recovering from a fall requiring stitches to his arm and staples to his head.

Zach (family friend of Jennifer McIntosh and Sara Shaver) underwent open-heart surgery and is improving but still in critical condition. Doctors are guardedly optimistic.

Jeff & Tina Gilbert (son and daughter-in-law of Sue Reed) accepted an 8-week nursing assignment in the Bronx, NY

Mary Beth Blake (daughter of Judy Knox) was ill with possible COVID-19, is feeling some better while awaiting results of testing.

Leah (sister of Lindsey Beckman) recovering from hand surgery.

Jeff and Cara Wade (friends of Tina Clark) Jeff is scheduled for surgery Tuesday. Facing many worries including employment concerns.

Family of Lorrie (friend of Jeff and Tina Clark) passed into eternity.

Ruth Lancaster Family friend of Judy Knox tested positive for COVID-19

Liz Albitz, Betty and Bob, Ed & Kim Booten, Billie Brisendine, Catherine, Teresa Cisco, Linda Cooper, James Cosby, Susan and Skip Daly, Harrison and Cindy Gapter, Doris Gerke, Jim and Marlene Hanson, Jo Hartley, Roy "Hutch" Hutchison, Tom Janicki, Roy and Betty Lindmark, Marie Marcum, Jeanneane Maxon, Sandy McKinney, Bob Mitchell, Lori Nettles, Herb & Marian Pauley, Harold Reed, Thresa Robinson, Donna Ruffatto, Stu and Marcia Schwalm, Carmella Shaver, Taegan Witcher

All diagnosed with Covid-19;

All diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers;

All diagnosed with any form of cancer;

All diagnosed with any incurable (even if treatable) disease.

For our congregation - that we would pursue God's will for us as His people gathered here to bring Him glory as we make disciples being help, hope, home in the body of Christ.