



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR ONLINE IN-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

Thank you for joining us today in our online in-home worship service! This service is designed to be used with just one person or with your family and friends who have gathered to thank and praise Jesus for his continued goodness to us. Print as many copies of this bulletin as you wish or follow along looking at this file on any computer, tablet or phone.

Before watching, it may be helpful to remove distractions from the room such as pets, loud toys, etc. Parents might explain to children that we will be worshiping Jesus while the video is playing, listening and responding just like we usually do at church. It might feel a little odd at first to worship this way, but if you explain the situation beforehand, you can expect better participation in your home.

SEASON OF EASTER 2020

Our worship series during the season of Easter is called “Witness.” We will follow the appointed lectionary readings from the book of Acts and see how the disciples carried out the instructions Jesus gave them to be his witnesses, through the power of the Holy Spirit. They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Not even the threat of death could stop them from faithfully witnessing to others. Our prayer is that through this worship series, we will be encouraged and empowered to witness to the people around us, starting right here where we live, and reaching out to the ends of the earth. We’ll see where our witnessing power comes from, get practical advice on how to share Christ, and get an idea of what to expect when we proclaim the wonderful Easter message of the risen Savior. God bless you as you witness!



TODAY’S FOCUS: EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES

Our *Witness* series today draws our eyes to the holy Scriptures. From day to day lately, our eyes and our hearts might be being drawn in to the world’s frenzy around us, like sirens luring us in to lovelessness, fear, or anger. In a time where we have been called to love others *no less* and witness to Jesus *all the more*, we Christians have new battles to fight with loneliness, fear, loss of routine, and lack of interpersonal communication. Our trust in government or in freedoms or in coping mechanisms may be misplaced—even sinful. But today we *Examine the Scriptures*. We see the Way and the Truth and the Life. We note the Living Stone on whom we’ve been built as God’s holy people, dearly loved. Finally, we team up with Paul, Jason, the Thessalonians, and the Bereans in our battle to witness for you. We are not alone. We examine the Scriptures, knowing God is in us, with us, for us. We are committed to declare his praises!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life-saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING PRAISE

Come, People of the Risen King

1. Come, peo - ple of the ris - en King, who de -
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and

light to bring Him praise. Come all, and tune your
weep - ing through the night. Come, those who tell of
wom - en of the faith. Come, those with full or

hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of grace. From the
bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For His
emp - ty hands, find the rich - es of His grace. Ov - er

shift - ing shad - ows of the earth we will lift our eyes to
per - fect love will nev - er change, and His mer - cies nev - er
all the world His peo - ple sing; Shore to shore we hear them

Him, where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to
cease; But fol - low us through all our days, with the
call the Truth that cries through ev - 'ry age, "Our

gath - er chil - dren in. (chorus) Re -
cer - tain hope of peace.
God is All in All."

joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -
joice! One heart, one voice; O,
Church of Christ, re - joice!

INVOCATION

Minister: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Congregation: Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.

M: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

C: The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Righteous and everlasting God, we confess that we are trapped in bondage to sin. We cannot free ourselves. Just when we think we have conquered one sin; another shows its ugly face. We resist one temptation, only to fall for three others. We discipline our tongues to avoid sinful expression, only to be find vile thoughts arise in us. During this time of social distancing we find the impulses of indifference or impatience, anger or hopelessness, anxiety or fear, skepticism or pessimism wearing us down with sin.

C: Help us, Lord. Deliver us from the temptations that threaten to overwhelm us. For Jesus' sake, blot out all our offenses. Renew us through the healing, redeeming power of your Holy Spirit. Grant us grace to live as your faithful people, confident in your love, joyous in your mercy, bold in your truth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

ABSOLUTION

M: God has heard our prayer of confession, and his love has already provided the remedy for sin. He sent his one and only Son to keep the commandments for us, to suffer the punishment our sins deserve, and to complete the payment for all our sin. This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He died; he rose again! So believe and rejoice! The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10

Here in the Scriptures (the Bible), we learn about Jesus, the powerful, live-giving, immovable Rock in whom we live and on whom we build. As we witness, we proclaim his praises!

⁴As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,
⁸and,
a stone over which they stumble
and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.



We're witnesses for Jesus our Savior, but we feel inadequate; we don't know it all. That's ok! Listen as Jesus encourages Thomas, Philip, and us. We know and share Jesus, who is the Way and the Truth and the Life.

¹“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

⁵“Lord, we don't know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so 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 know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.”

⁹“Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

¹²“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The cantor sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.

The cantor sings the verses.

Refrain

Do not let your hearts be trou - led, have
 faith in God and faith in me. I will go
 forth to pre - pare a place for you, then I'll come
 back to take you with me that where I
 am you may al - so be.

Repeat Refrain

Cantor: In God's house there are many places for you alone to dwell in safety.
 You know the way to where I'll lead you, if you are lost, I will show the way.

Refrain

Cantor: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, only through me can you know what I know.
 If you knew me, you would know the Father, if you see me, you see your God.

Refrain

Cantor: The words I speak are not only of myself, it is your God who lives within me.
 If you believe that your God and I are one, I will provide when you call my name.

Refrain

¹ When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” ⁴ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

⁵ But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. ⁶ When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, ⁷ and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!” ⁸ The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. ⁹ They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

¹⁰ That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.

¹² Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

When the Scriptures Are at Work

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

OFFERINGS

The members of this congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Thank you for your joyful generosity! *Please see our Love Notes for more information on ways to give your offerings.*

SONG OF PRAISE

The Way

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, faithful God: We confess that we have often doubted your love and viewed your intentions with suspicion, even though you have proven yourself trustworthy.

C: Forgive us for being so slow to believe and witness.

M: We praise you for the hope of salvation, made sure by Christ's death and resurrection.

C: We praise you for your reliable love and promises!

M: Lord Jesus, Living Stone, we owe our life to you. May our love and witness for you continue to grow.

C: By your Word and sacraments, give us confidence to love and witness to others.

M: Dear heavenly Father, please guide and bless those who are graduating from high school and college this spring. Though their ceremonies and celebrations will lack human interaction, please remind those graduates that you go with them into the workforce or into further education with your divine promise and presence.

C: Keep them close to you and trusting in you for all things.

M: Bless all of the teacher, vicar, and pastor candidates in our ministerial education schools who will be assigned to service in the next few weeks. Thank you for giving them a place in the work of Gospel ministry.

C: Give them strength and courage to proclaim you as Savior.

M: Holy Spirit, direct our hearts to Jesus. Chase away our doubts and fears. Though we feel the loss of many of our earthly supports and opportunities for human touch and interaction,

C: We know you will never leave us or forsake us.

M: Lord, we pray as you have taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Let all of God's people say:

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

O God Our Help

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is thine arm alone And our defense is sure.

Chorus

Oh God You are You are our
 help. You are our help - er. To all gen - er - a -
 tions You - will be f - or - ev - er - and ev - er Our
 shield and our e - ter - nal hope oh
 Lord. You are the an - cient of - days, and wor - thy of - our praise.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame.
From everlasting thou art God, To endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while life shall last And our eternal home.

REPEAT CHORUS TWICE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our songs of praise today are accompanied by **Eternal Praise**,
one of our congregation's own musical groups.

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus

Scripture Reader: Dennis Oldenburg

Come, People of the Risen King

Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend Arranged by Dan Burgess. Orchestrated by David Shipps. © 2007 and 2010 Thankyou Music All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. CCLI 1180837

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

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The Way (New Horizon)

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O God Our Help

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Holy Bible

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