

# ✠ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

## May 9-10, 2020

### PRELUDE

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

**C: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

**To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

**R673**

### GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

**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.**

### READINGS AND PSALM

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

*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.

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

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<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.”

## 1 Peter 2:2-10

*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.

## John 14:1-14

*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."

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**R619**

### **APOSTLE'S 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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Hear our cry, O God.

**C:** Listen to our prayer.

### **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.**

### **BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

**R772**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Julie Troy, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Kevin Reiser, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Nick Wittman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin. **Prayer Concerns: We are still taking prayer concerns to be included in the weekly bulletin – now becoming weekly news and announcements and more. Please do have the persons permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than just our congregation will know about it.**

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED**

With Governor Whitmer's order to Stay Home and Stay Safe, the church building is closed until May 15th. That is the building is closed but not the work of Grace Lutheran Church or the congregation of Grace. God's work goes on regardless of a building. The staff is now working from home as much as possible. We can now check the phone remotely for messages and will respond. Mail will be picked up daily and put in the office.

## **IN-PERSON WORSHIP ????**

Ways are being explored at how we might come back to in-person worship in the Grace Lutheran building. Multiple possibilities are being considered. It is still very hard to know what the recommendations will be from the CDC, from the state of Michigan, the local health department and from the experience of others. We want to do in-person worship in a way that is safe and healthy for as many people as possible.

Consideration will need to be given for the best practices that will provide that opportunity for worshipping together. What social distancing practices will be recommended and how best can we implement them? What does that mean for getting people in and out of the sanctuary and the seating? What that will mean for the worship service itself? What are the best ways to do things with that in mind? Are there some things that are too risky to do at this time?

The Worship Work Group has viewed several webinars on this from our Synod, read recommendations from other church groups and had discussion themselves about how to proceed and are formulating plans. We are working to present these options to Council for a leadership decision.

More information will be coming out soon.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have changed any contact information since our last church directory, say have a cell phone as your preferred or only contact, do let us know so we have the latest info in the church office.

## **DAILY DEVOTIONALS – CHRIST IN OUR HOME**

If you did not have the chance to pick your copy of *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklet, please let us know. Call or email and we will get a copy out to you. And as many have done if you have shared them with family, friends and neighbors in the past, we will mail them one also.

## **DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?**

Several church members have been making some for the hospital and are willing to make some for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

## **GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED**

Due to the difficulty in obtaining information necessary to complete the scholarship application, the committee has extended the deadline to June 1, 2020. Completed applications may still be emailed or mailed to the church office. Call the office (354-2640) if you would like an application mailed or emailed to you.

## **PEOPLE ARE WATCHING**

In the meantime, we hope these recorded services are meaningful. Please let others know about them. From April 19<sup>th</sup> 187 views, from April 26<sup>th</sup> 144 and from May 3 93 views so far. It is GOD'S WORD and it needs to be out there. The world so needs to know of God's love and grace and peace and justice and strength right now. *THANKS*

## **THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to Thunder Bay Therapy and Sports Medicine (Ashley Hanson) for their generous donation of food and personal care items to the the Little Food Pantry. Your contribution allows us to continue making a Christ-like difference in our community. --Discipleship Committee

## **ONLINE WORSHIP RECORDINGS**

From our website or Facebook page you can access a video that we have made of scripture, prayers, music and a meditation for the week. Please let others, family, friends and church members know about this.

## **WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

Though the building is closed, mail is still dealt with daily. So offering envelopes can be sent in and they will be deposited.

## **SIMPLY GIVING**

If you would like to set up a transfer from one of your bank accounts to Grace's, like automatic utility paying, give the office a call and Peggy will help set that up.

## **GIVE +**

You can also go to our website and use the Give + link for a one time contribution or set up a recurring contribution through credit cards.

Thank you to one and all for your faithfulness in your stewardship toward God's work at Grace Lutheran.

### **GENERAL FUND GIVING**

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,415.00
Weekly giving - May 3	5,855.00

***Thank you to all who have dropped off or mailed in envelopes and made donations online.***

**This week we received:** 15 envelopes, 3 new Give+ payments made from our website

**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GERALD ANDERSON'S SON, MARK.**  
**Pastor Anderson served at Grace Lutheran from 1960 to 1964**

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you add my mother, Sharon Anderson (87 years old) to your prayer list. She is the wife of Rev. Gerald Anderson who served your congregation in the years listed below.

She had a series of small strokes early this week, and is currently at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. She is rather weak in her right leg and arm. Her speech has been affected, but is progressing well. Doctors do think she should regain 80-90% of her function, with therapy. Please pray for her medical team as they diagnose and provide the best treatment plan for her recovery. In addition to strength and healing, we ask for peace and calm as she and my dad navigate the hospital during the restrictions of the pandemic. I will post updates on Facebook as there is more to share, and time allows.

Cards can be sent to their home (funny ones are appreciated, too):

992 Westfield Ln  
Neenah WI 54956

With gratitude,  
Mark Anderson, Arlington Heights, IL

**SOME WORDS OF STEWARDSHIP**  
**from a letter by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

Weeks may have passed since you last walked in the doors of your congregation and worshiped, face-to-face, with your community of faith. To be sure, being the body of Christ looks and feels differently than it ever has before.

Despite all of this, we are called to be church — together. The ministry of your local church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks different now, but it has not stopped. Nor have the needs of our communities and the world. Our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

The congregations and ministries of our church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks, the financial impact could be devastating.

Please continue to give to your congregation and give regularly. Your congregation and its leaders continue to minister to your community of faith. This ministry relies on your weekly offerings. Find out how you can continue your pledge or regular offering through online giving, automatic monthly giving or mail.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

I have been reflecting on the words of Peter: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" (1 Peter 4:10). Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

Be of good courage, dear church, and remember that Christ is with us now and always.

In Christ,

Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America