

**MAY 10, 2020**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*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.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *Lord God, We Praise You* (ELW 558)

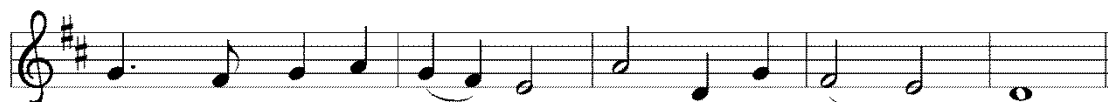
### Lord God, We Praise You



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.

Text: attr. Gregory I, 540–604; tr. composite  
Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.  
Sing to the Lord, give God the glory. Glory.  
Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts  
Forevermore let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

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## 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.**

## 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.*

A reading from Acts.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Be not afraid, sing out for Joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!

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## GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Bill**

**SOLO *The Family of Faith* Jared Mummert**

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

**PEACE**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (*Please respond.*)

P: Lord, in your mercy.... C: **hear our prayer.**

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.

*A 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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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 (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Connie Bikle, Beth Floyd, Ellen Dale, Janie Winters, Jack Davenport, Carla Wenger, Judy Monn, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Bill Sellers, Millie Kulkusky, Brian Helman, Curt Shreiner, Erin Weiss, Susie Foust, Genny Grant, John Stoner, Karen Sanders, Jackson, Bob Shreiner, Bonnie Hudson, Ferd Bikle*

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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

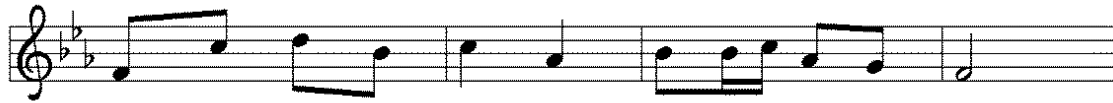
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

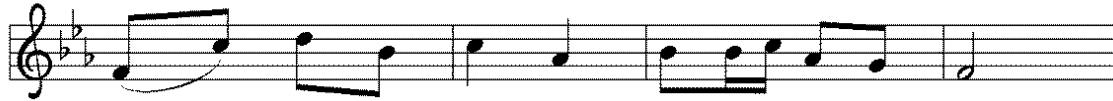
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Now the Green Blade Rises* (ELW 379)

Now the Green Blade Rises



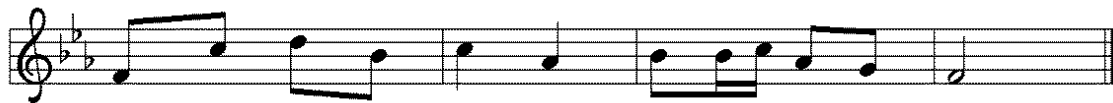
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
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**DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**SILENT PRAYER**



## SERVING TODAY

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Solo – Jared Mummert

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**The altar flowers** are placed to the glory of God in memory of Don Wishard given by Rosemary and Family.

### ***Stewardship Thought – May 10, 2020 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)***

**1 Peter 2:9** - 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 .

*We have a long way to go to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, AND we have a special part to play. Peter reminds us that we belong to God and are called to proclaim the good news and work for justice, peace, and mercy.*