

CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠ May 10, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the fifth Sunday of Easter. This is also Mother's Day, so we welcome all mother's and all who show motherly care as we gather this day to hear God's Word.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call the pastors at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our church websites for more information.
- *Please don't forget your offering. Your congregation depends on you for financial support so that we can feed the hungry, teach our Sunday School classes, provide music for the choir, pay the electric bill, buy paper for the Sunday bulletin, and purchase the coffee you love to drink on Sunday morning. Mail in your offering or give on-line.*

Remember, our Lord is risen and is with us now and always.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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.

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.**

HYMN LBW#513 “COME MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE”

1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as conquers death.	3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy as none can move; such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.
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2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a strength as makes his guest.
such a feast as mends in length;

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632

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.

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.**

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: 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.

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.*

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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.
⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be 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.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 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.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like 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.

⁶For 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.”

⁷To 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,”

⁸and

“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.

⁹But 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.

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.

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA

Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. *Alleluia.* (John 14:6)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: 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:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus 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’? 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

“At-one-ment”

Pr. Laura A. Csellak

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 worshiped 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE *A sign of peace is shown by bowing.*

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

THE PRAYERS *Response: "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.

O God of motherly care, build us up as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continue to strengthen your Church as the mission sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray for all congregations struggling during these challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, as part of your creation, fill us with respect for all that you have made. Make us into grateful stewards of the earth, sea and air that you have given to us in sacred trust. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, transform our selfish ways into your way of love. We pray for nations, leaders, and people to receive and care for the stranger, the refugee, and the outcast, knowing that when we do so, we do it unto you. 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.**

Nurturing God, we pray for mothers, for those who tend and teach young children, for expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and those who have lost a child. 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 trusting in your redeeming love. 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 Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**

BENEDICTION

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.**

DISMISSAL

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

HYMN LBW#352 "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES"

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| 1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head! | 3 He lives to grant me rich supply;
he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint;
he lives to hear my soul's complaint. |
| 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love. | 4 He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart. |

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

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LEADING WORSHIP

PRESIDING

Pr. Laura Csellak and Pr. Mark Swanson

VIDEOGRAPHER

Mr. Gary Klinger

THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR...

THURSDAY, MAY 14: MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

