

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship**  
**Sunday, May 10, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
<https://vimeo.com/416524876>

Prelude - Beautiful Savior

by David Paxton

**GATHERING**

**Gathering Hymn - Now the Green Blade Rises**

**379**

We gather in the name of the Father ☩ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**THIS IS THE FEAST**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us pray

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **WORD**

#### **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**

##### **Refrain**



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

##### **Refrain**

<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 de- | liver 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 tow- | er of strength. Refrain**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend 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 up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love." **Refrain**

## **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.*

<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.

## **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:] <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."

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day - Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life**

**816**

## 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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. 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 Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Sonja, Charlie, JoAnn, Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol, Jim, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, Kaaren, Leigh*, and all those we name now in our hearts or on our lips. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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.**

God of faith, hope, and love, remind us again that these three things endure. Each of them is a gift from you. Help us in this time of unending uncertainty to hold fast to the truth that your love never fails and that nothing can separate us from your love. We cry out to you in faith, knowing you are our only hope. 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.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **Holy Holy Holy**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth,

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the  
mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us,

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**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.**

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

**Communion will be available in the church parking lot Sunday, from 10 to 11 am.**

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR. WE WILL COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A WAFER AND WINE OR GRAPE JUICE. IT WILL BE SERVED TO YOU IN A FOAM BOWL. PLEASE TAKE THE ELEMENTS AND DISTRIBUTE AMONG THOSE IN YOUR VEHICLE AND THEN DISPOSE OF THE CUPS AND BOWL WHEN YOU GET HOME.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word,  
and our hearts burn within us.  
Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.  
Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives!**

**619**

Postlude - Fugal Fantasy (based on Beethoven's "Ode to Joy")

by Stanley E. Saxton

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27001.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by  
permission. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-721914



**The Altar Flowers** are given in memory of Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Stumpf, by their sons, Karl Stumpf and David Stumpf and their families.

**Prayer of the Church (Members):** Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Sonja and Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol and Jim Sackett, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Kaaren Johanson, Leigh Stock

**Prayer List Changes** – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - drop a note in the offering plate, email staff, or call the office.

**Prayer of the Church (Friends):** Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David

Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol and Jim Sackett), Kate Genaitis, Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Tom and Mary Jakubus (friend of Deb Tabert), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Tristan and Hailey Hunter (relatives of Deb Tabert), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Bob and Ellie DeVries, Lenore Carnes (aunt of Pat Casper), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Al Deardorff (cousin-in-law of Marlene Coulter), LeRoy Farmer (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Michele and Matthew [mother and baby] (relatives of Pat Casper), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Ron Blackwell (cousin of Pat Casper), Lenore Carnes (aunt of Pat Casper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Moe Johnson (uncle of Betty Hinshaw)

**St. Paul's Readers** – We will have a zoom meeting on Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 pm to discuss both How Starbucks Changed My Life, by Michael Gil, and The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris. Looking ahead, the June book selection is Why Religion: A Personal Story, by Elaine Pagels.

**Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour** on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info:

**Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar**

Time: Apr 20, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Mon, until Jun 1, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

May 11, 2020 10:00 AM

May 18, 2020 10:00 AM

May 25, 2020 10:00 AM

Jun 1, 2020 10:00 AM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

**Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753**

**Password: 292680**

**Virtual Food Drive for Urban Ministries**

As you spend your days homebound by the Corona virus, you may be wondering what you can do to help our community. As you may know, St. Paul's has long been associated with the Urban Ministries of Durham. We help them via our Community Café volunteers, our food drives and clothing drives as well as financial contributions. UMD is like all facilities who help the homeless and other financially challenged individuals and families. Their importance to the community has increased as the financial crisis has grown.

To be able to help Urban Ministries serve our community, we are going to ask you to participate in a virtual food drive. It must be virtual since many of us are avoiding grocery stores right now. Also, a virtual food drive collecting money will give the UMD the opportunity to purchase what they need most.

Please either bring to church (when you come for communion) OR mail to the church your generous check made out to St. Paul's. Please write Urban Ministries in the memo line. We will send them one collective check to help them allay some of their expenses which have increased lately. This is one way you can help the Durham community through this crisis. We will be doing this until **May 11**. Share the spirit of Easter through your generous gifts!