

## Morning Prayer – 5th Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020

*Families or small groups might gather, taking turns serving as "Leader" and others responding with words in **bold print**, or the entire service is said by one person, knowing that others are praying in the same way in their own locations.*

*A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.*

"I am the way, the truth, and the life", says the Lord;  
"no one comes to the Father, but by me."

**O Come, Let us Worship.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## Christ our Passover

*1 Corinthians 5.7–8; Romans 6.9–11; 1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

**Alleluia!**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*  
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a human came death, \*  
by a human has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \* so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **Alleluia!**

"I am the way, the truth, and the life", says the Lord;  
"no one comes to the Father, but by me."

**O Come, Let us Worship.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

*Acts 7:55-60 New Revised Standard Version*

But filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 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. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ 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.**

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16** (*Inclusive Language Psalter*)

1 In 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.**

3 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.**

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

**5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \***

**for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

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

**16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \* and in your loving-kindness save  
me.”**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

**1 Peter 2:2-10** *New Revised Standard Version*

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

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

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’,* 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.

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 marvellous light.

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.  
The word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

*Music might be Inserted here, either a "live" offering of praise to God, or a recorded selection.*

*Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.*  
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:1-14)  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' 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"? 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. 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. 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

The Gospel of Christ      **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*Did anything stand out for you in this story while you heard it this time?  
What does this story have to say to you today?*

## Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.  
This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these.

## Intercessions and Thanksgivings

*(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!"*)

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That our risen Saviour may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the Holy One may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Divine power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the source of all Love may reveal the light of God's presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the One who spoke from the burning bush may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon all God's people, that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

For our own needs and those of others.

*Silence. people may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence. people may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The people may name their remembered dead*

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence for reflection.*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;  
**in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown,**  
**things done and left undone;**  
**and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,**  
**to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Collect

Generous God,

whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord:  
as you have opened for us your house of many rooms,  
so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved,  
and share in the work of peace;  
through Jesus Christ the cornerstone. **Amen.**

*Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**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. Save us from the time of trial,**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

May the God of peace give us peace in all ways and at all times. **Amen.**

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now*

*This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.*

*And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTORY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>*

*The Psalms are drawn from the Inclusive Language Psalter, commended for use by the Council of General Synod, March 2019 and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>*