

5th Sunday of Easter

The Way, The Truth, The Life

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

May 10, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.

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WORSHIP THEME

I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a person. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds his Church.

The Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

167 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de-fense And my Sav - ior,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to
3 No, too close - ly am I bound Un - to him by
4 I am flesh and must re - turn Un - to dust, whence
5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new With this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;
hope for - ev - er; Faith's strong hand the rock has found,
I am tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern
be en - shroud - ed; In this bod - y I shall view



Rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, Though the night of
Shall my cour - age, then, be shak - en? Shall I fear, or
Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven death now
That from death I shall a - wak - en With my Sav - ior
God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; In this flesh I



death be fraught Still with many an anx - ious thought.
could the head Rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
to a - bide In his glo - ry, at his side.
then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: D. M. Luthers . . . *Geistliche Lieder und Psalmen*, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4-5.

Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We cannot approach God without having our sins forgiven. He is holy and we are not. Confession assures us of a clean conscience before God and prepares us for worship and to hear his Word

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

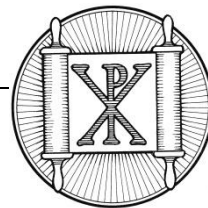
C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.

The **Collect** (also known as the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Stephen did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he fixed his eyes on Jesus, put his hope in heaven, and commended his spirit to God and prayed for his murderers.

6 In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. ²The Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, "It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables. ³Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵This proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert from Antioch. ⁶They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from some members of the Freedmen's Synagogue, composed of both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, and they began to argue with Stephen.

² "Brothers and fathers," he replied, "listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran,

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. ⁵³ You received the law under the direction of angels and yet have not kept it."

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were enraged^[a] and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

⁵⁷ They yelled at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him. ⁵⁸ They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And after saying this, he fell asleep.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 33

Refrain

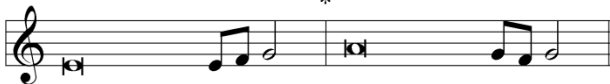


The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

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

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:1-10

Christ the “living Stone,” builds up his people like living stones into a spiritual house giving glory of God. This is all the work of God's mercy. Calling sinners to himself, he recreates them as his “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.”

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word,^[a] so that by it you may grow up into your salvation, ³if **you have tasted that the Lord is good.**^[b] ⁴As you come to him, a living stone—rejected by people but chosen and honored by^[c] God—⁵you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood^[d] to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and honored^[e] cornerstone,

and the one who believes in him
will never be put to shame.^[1]

⁷ So honor will come to you who believe; but for the unbelieving,

**The stone that the builders rejected—
this one has become the cornerstone,**^[2]

⁸ and

**A stone to stumble over,
and a rock to trip over.**^[3]

They stumble because they disobey the word; they were destined for this.

⁹ But you are **a chosen race,**^[4] **a royal priesthood,**^[5] **a holy nation,**^[6] **a people for
his possession,**^[7] **so that you may proclaim the praises**^{[8][9]} of the one who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are
God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 14:6

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the
life, says the Lord. Alleluia.

*Because we are
about to hear the
very words and
deeds of Christ, the
congregation
acknowledges the
Lord's presence in
their midst through
His Gospel by
standing and
singing Alleluia,
which means
Praise the Lord!*



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

*Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure. He comforts and assures them of his continuing care. He is the
Way, the Truth, and the Life. His disciples have every spiritual blessing and have seen the Father.*

14 “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe^[a] in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. ⁴ You know the way to where I am going.”^[a]

⁵ “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will also know^[a] my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe^[a] because of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.^[a]

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

141 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
 2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,
 3 Now no more can death ap - pall,
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!
 5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.
 Now no more the grave en - thrall;
 This a - lone can sin de - stroy;
 Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing
 You have con - quered in the fight; You have
 You have o - pened par - a - dise, And your
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born
 Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
 One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt.
 Tune: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT (77 77 4) *Kirchengeseng*, Ivanceice, 1566.

SERMON

1 Peter 2:1-10

Living Stones

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

1 Pet. 3:19

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:4b

He ascended into heaven

Ac. 2:33-34

and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.

Heb. 1:13

From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith just preached. The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.

Be seated

OFFERING

Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power.

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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.

HYMN

185 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our
2 Help us that we your sav - ing Word In faith - ful
3 Then when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter

Lord and Sav - ior In faith and fer - vent love em -
hearts may trea - sure; Let e'er that bread of life af -
hour im - pend - ing, May your good work in us be -

brace And tru - ly serve him ev - er, So that when
ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure. Make us to
gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing, Un - til we

death is near at hand We at his cross may firm -
die to ev - 'ry sin; Each day cre - ate us new
glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our Sav -

ly stand And there find our sal - va - tion.
with - in That fruits of faith may flour - ish.
ior's hand To rest in peace e - ter - nal.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.
Tune: ES IST GEWISSLICH (87 87 887) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

*The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."*



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

529 Built on the Rock



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for his
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
5 Grant then, O God, your will be done, That, when the



stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth his
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God did re - ceive us. Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what the sac - ra - ment gives
faith may come Where Christ his mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling, Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two his name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know my own; my own know me.



But a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, my face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
With all his grace and his fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you al - ways."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.: tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Tune: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS (88 88 88 8) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.

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