

Dear members of God's family,

We continue to pray in our homes, but pray together. In these final Sundays of Easter, we hear from the "Farewell Discourse" in chapters 14-17 of the Gospel according to John. That discourse is the unique way the Fourth Gospel tells the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus. And that meaning reaches out to us today, into our homes, making us together into God's people, God's witnesses. If you are able, read these scriptures and pray these prayers together with your fellow members at Resurrection church at **10am on Sunday, May 10.**

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home

You may wish to light a candle near where you pray, perhaps the candle you have lit throughout Easter. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200510/playlist>

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.

²Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver 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.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.

⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

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

¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Thomas knows neither the way nor where Jesus is going. Philip wants to see God. These disciples stand for us, now, in our need and confusion. But Jesus himself is the way, the truth, and the life. He is himself the presence of God. The amazing thing is that he goes to God now by going to the cross, and he makes that place of suffering to be the very dwelling place of God with us. Henceforth, in every place of suffering we see the risen Christ already there, like Stephen sees him coming. In Jesus, God has mercy on us and makes us together the house of God and the witnesses to God's mighty acts. In the Spirit, Jesus' words come to us, to our own homes, and make our homes to be part of this house of God with many rooms. In this difficult time, we can at least turn to our neighbors with our prayers and gifts, for God's mercy is for all.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Easter 5 sermon.

It may be found on Constant Contact, on the RELC website, or at

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200510/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200510/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #389

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:

Still worshipping from our homes, but with our hearts bonded into one, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm.

A brief silence.

Mothering God, nurse all the baptized with the milk of your word. *A brief silence.* Monarch of all things, rear us to become your royal people. *A brief silence.* Build us up, that like living stones we embody the strength that only you can give. As you provided the early church with the apostle Matthias, fill now the churches' needs for leaders to serve your holy people.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Form us to be humble participants in your complex creation. We praise your power in evolving a magnificent earth, from flowering trees to tropical rainstorms, from black holes to beloved pets. When we resume our lives of occupation and relaxation, lead us to respect your wondrous sphere with both all that creates and all that destroys.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Assist the leaders of nations to find and follow your ways of justice. Guide their way through the opposite challenges of pandemic and poverty. Protect governors and legislators from sickness and burn-out. Despite our own considerable needs, keep us mindful of the needs of others, especially refugees and prisoners.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Accompany the sick, the sorrowful, the confused. Comfort them in suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We beg you to protect us from the coronavirus. We pray for Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Nathan Linman, Jack Mulloy, and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Sustain those who mother infants and children. Uphold the parents and grandparents who now must school their children. Give to homemakers enough food for their families. Grant safe pregnancy and delivery to expectant parents, and minister

to those who endure infertility and miscarriage. Bless the countless relatives, medical workers, and hospice volunteers who give to others mothering care. Embrace all for whom today's cultural celebration of mothers is difficult.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Always, loving God, we make bold to add to this list our own petitions:

A longer period of silence.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

We remember before you for all who have died in the faith, those like Stephen martyred for the faith, those struck down by the coronavirus, and those whom we name now in our hearts.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us all to you, who are our way, our truth, and our life.

O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

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

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200510/playlist>

HYMN #816 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Then speak the Blessing:

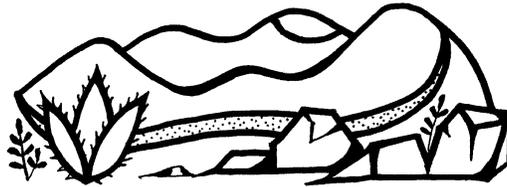
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✚ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, morning, noon or night, to celebrate that presence.

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord.
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**



Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 102:1-17. **Tuesday** Proverbs 3:5-12. **Wednesday** John 8:31-38.

Thursday (Matthias, Apostle) Luke 6:12-16. **Friday** Genesis 7:1-24. **Saturday** John 14:27-29.

Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.