

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for May 10, 2020

5th Sunday in the Season of Easter

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Call to Worship: 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 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.

4Take 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.

15My 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.”

**Psalm Song “Your Good, Strong Hands (Psalm 31)” by Richard Bruxvoort
Colligan**

Chorus: I put my life in your hands, your good, strong hands
You’ve got us all in your hands, your good, strong hands
Your good, strong hands.

1. I run to you to hide. God, don’t let me down. I’m counting on you now.
Lean down and pick me up. Be a cliff I can hide beneath.
Be a castle to which I can retreat. *Chorus*
2. My castle and my cliff, keeping me now, lead me in your renown.
Lean down and rescue me, break me out of this trap I’m in.
Be my strength on which I can depend. *Chorus*

3. Now my future's in your hand. You're never late. Please save me from this hate.
Shine down your face on me. Oh, your loving will never end.
You have helped me, oh, time and time again. *Chorus*

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.

Children's Sermon

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.”

Sermon

Song: As You Go by Lost & Found

Chorus: Do not let your heart be troubled, and neither afraid

Do not let your heart be troubled, and neither afraid

For the love that we knew is given to you, to share as you go from this place

1. Leaves fall, flowers close. After all, that's how it goes
And what may be an end can bring new life again
2. Now the moment has arrived. We never thought we'd say goodbye
In many ways God's message had begun
Now in these days, God has spoken by His Son
3. We pray for peace, we pray for grace,
And God's presence in the challenges we face
We know we'll be together one day - we know the way

Offering reflection

As Christians, we believe that everything we have is a gift from God. Our talents, our finances, our possessions, our abilities, our friendships, our life itself, all is a gift from God. God calls us to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us, using them to do good in the world.

This pandemic is a scary time, and if you are struggling, I invite you to reach out, because there are resources available to help. The Independence Food Pantry is still operating, and the Jesup Ministerial Alliance has funds available to help with housing expenses.

Even during this scary time of pandemic and social distancing, God continues to be generous with God's gifts to us. And God calls us to the practice of gratitude, reflecting on things we are grateful for even in this time of fear and uncertainty. Practicing gratitude, even when times are challenging, is very good for our mental and spiritual health. And one way we can practice gratitude is to reflect on how we can be generous with the gifts that God has given us.

So, even though we are not physically passing offering plates right now, I invite you to take some time to practice gratitude and to reflect on how you can be generous with the gifts that God has given you. Maybe you have an abundance of time and you can call people who might be lonely. Maybe you can pick up groceries for a high risk neighbor. Maybe you have a bit of extra money to financially support your congregation, your food pantry, and other ministries that are doing God's work in these uncertain times.

If you would like to give to American Lutheran Church, you may do so by mailing your offering to the church. You may also give on the website, americanlutheranjesup.org, under the "Support ALC" tab. There are instructions there to sign up for Simply Giving, or you can give a one-time gift through Paypal. You may also designate gifts for other ministries like the Food Pantry and the Jesup Ministerial Fund.

As you reflect on gratitude and generosity, let us pray.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Still worshiping from our homes, but with our hearts bonded into one, let us pray for all who are in need.

Build us up, mothering God, that like living stones we embody the strength that only you can give. Nurse all the baptized with the milk of your word. As you provided the early church with the apostle Matthias, fill now the churches' needs for leaders to serve your holy people. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

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. Lead us to respect your wondrous earth with both all that creates and all that destroys. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Assist the leaders of nations to find and follow your ways of justice. Guide their way through the 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.

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Accompany those who are sick, sorrowful, or confused. Comfort them in suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We beg you to protect us from the coronavirus, and we pray for those we name in our hearts before you. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Sustain those who mother infants and children. Uphold the parents and grandparents who now must school their children. Provide enough food and resources for 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. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

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

Special Music: "Hymn of Promise" sung by Jessica Saunders

In the bulb there is a flower;

In the seed, an apple tree;

In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter

There's a spring that waits to be,

Unrevealed until its season,

Something God alone can see.

**There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.**

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.

Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!
And have fun doing it! We will! Amen!

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Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Your Good, Strong Hands
Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan.
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By the Numbers

Check Register Balance: \$9,681.86

Bank loan: \$9,465

May 3rd, 2020 Giving

Current: \$2,431

Benevolence: \$107

Improvement: \$135

Debt Reduction: \$100

Telephone Credit: \$793.87

Parsonage Internet: \$60.00