Bringing Hope to the Hopeless
Feeding the Body and Spirit
Making God Available to All

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Year A

May 10, 2020
Jesus Christ
Head of the Church

Every Baptized Member
Ministers of the Church

The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen III
Rector

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio

Sheryle Daly/Janet Schall
Pat Van Allen
Church Musicians

Dale Schall
Choir Director

Melyssa G. Ziegler
Administrative Assistant
Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15: 57

The following Confession of Sin may then be said; or the Office may continue at once with "Lord, open our lips."

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant    Lord, open our lips.
People       And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory 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.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Jubilate       Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
   serve the Lord with gladness
   and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
   he himself has made us, and we are his;
   we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
   give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
   and his faithfulness endures from age to age.
Then follows

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
   do not let me ever be put to shame;
   in your righteousness deliver me.
2 Incline your ear to me;
   rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
   a strong fortress to save me.

3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
   for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,
4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
   for you are my refuge.
5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
   you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

15 My times are in your hand;
   deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
   save me in your steadfast love.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

Glory 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

The Lessons

One or two lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Acts 7: 55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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.

After each Lesson the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

19 The Song of the Redeemed Magna et mirabilia Revelation 15:3-4

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, * surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, * O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? * for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, * because your just and holy works have been revealed.
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.

A Reading (Lesson) from the First Letter of Peter, Chapter 2, verses 2-10

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 marvelous 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

People Thanks be to God.

18 A Song to the Lamb Dignus es Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and kingly power * 
 are yours by right, O Lord our God, 
For you created everything that is, * 
 and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, * 
 for with your blood you have redeemed for God, 
From every family, language, people, and nation, * 
 a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, * 
 and to Christ the Lamb,
A Reading (Lesson) from Gospel according to John, Chapter 14, verses 1-14

“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. 4 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. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Sermon The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen, III
The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
   creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
   He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
       and born of the Virgin Mary.
   He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
       was crucified, died, and was buried.
   He descended to the dead.
   On the third day he rose again.
   He ascended into heaven,
       and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
   He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
   the holy catholic Church,
   the communion of saints,
   the forgiveness of sins
   the resurrection of the body,
       and the life everlasting. AMEN.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

**Suffrages B**

V.  Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R.  Govern and uphold them, now and always.  
V.  Day by day we bless you;  
R.  We praise your name for ever.  
V.  Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R.  Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.  
V.  Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R.  For we put our trust in you.  
V.  In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R.  And we shall never hope in vain.

*The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects*

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you,
that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.
Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

Before the close of the Office one or both of the following may be used

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Then may be said
Let us bless the Lord.
*Thanks be to God.*

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

**Announcements:**

Thank you for all you do to take care of yourself and others. You are an important part of the St. Peter Church community.

Thank you to those who have joined me in Morning Devotions. They will continue at least as long as we are homebound.

Thank you also for your continued support of your parish through your pledges and gifts. These times are difficult and your loyalty through sending your contributions takes some of the pressure off, because it does not leave us with a cash flow problem on top of all the other pressures and anxieties. Thank you.

If you have not sent your pledges, it is safest to send them to the St. Peter Church P.O. Box rather than to mail them directly to the church. That address is:

St. Peter Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 357
Ashtabula, OH. 44005