

SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: Easter 5, Sunday 10 May, 2020. Year A

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN – 392 How firm a foundation

**1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Saviour for refuge have fled?**

**2 Fear not, He is with thee, O be not dismayed:
For He is thy God, and will still give thee aid:
He'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by His righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3 When through the deep waters He calls thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For He will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And turn to thy good e'en thy deepest distress.**

**4 When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
His grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee: His only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**5 The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
He will not, He cannot, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell shall endeavour to shake,
He never will leave and will never forsake.**

'K-', in J. Rippon's 'Selection', 1787, alt.
(ascribed to Richard Keen)

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against you, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which you know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased you, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

PSALM 31:1-6, 15-16 (sung by choir)

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness, incline your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue.

Be to me a rock of refuge; a stronghold to keep me safe.

You are to me a rock and a fortress: for your name's sake lead me and guide me, Release me from the net they have secretly laid for me; for you O Lord are my strength.

Into your hand I commend my spirit; for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

I hear the whispering of many, fear is on every side: while they conspire together against me, and plot to take away my life.

But my trust is in you O Lord: I say, 'You are my God', my fortunes are in your hands.

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forevermore, Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**
Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy**
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**

HYMN OF PRAISE – Glory be to God in heaven

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all your people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's king;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Saviour, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!**

Michael Perry 1942-

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, since you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will: Grant that your people may love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Hear the Word of the Lord as it is written in the book of Acts chapter 7, beginning at verse 55.

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 the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hear the Word of the Lord as it is written in the first letter of Peter, chapter 2, beginning at verse 2.

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.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of the Lord as it is written in the Gospel according to John, chapter 14, beginning at verse 1.

'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.

After the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

HYMN – Father of the eternal Son

1. **Father of the eternal Son,
in praise we kneel before your throne.
Your heavenly blessings here bestow
on us, your church on earth below.**
2. **For you chose us in Christ the Son
before creation was begun,
your pure and holy saints to be,
to live with you eternally.**

- 3. In grace, predestined through the Son,
co-heirs of Christ we have become.
Blameless and holy in your sight,
we walk as people of the light**

- 4. For through the blood of Christ our Lord
we stand forgiven and restored.
O heavenly mercy, heavenly love!
O heavenly wisdom from above!**

- 5. This mystery, so long foretold,
is now unveiled to all the world;
the day and hour at last fulfilled,
redemption now at last revealed!**

- 6. All powers in heaven and earth will see
How God brings all to unity;
how all at last will be made one
under the cross of Christ the Son.**

- 7. Glory to God the Father sing
Glory to Christ the Son now bring.
And to the Holy Spirit raise
Your endless song of joy and praise!**

Words: Stephen Pietsch Music: Meg Pearce

SERMON

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come 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

*or: Christian; *'catholic' here means 'universal'*

SONG – AT 455 This I believe

**1. I believe in one God the Father
I believe in Jesus his Son,
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
All three are one.
I believe that he made all the heavens,
And the earth is the work of his hands.
From the vastness of space to the most secret place,
He commands.**

**And I will sing of his greatness,
And I will tell of his love,
I will shout from the rooftops,
All this I believe.**

**2. When I walked in the way of rebellion
I believe that he died in my place.
On the cross all the anger and mercy
of God are displayed.
I believe that the tomb was found empty,
I believe that he rose from the grave,
I believe in a life everlasting
For those he has saved.**

**And I will sing of his greatness,
 And I will tell of his love,
 I will shout from the rooftops,
 All this I believe.**

**3. I believe he will come back in glory
 And will take all his children back home
 With a shout we will rise, no more tears
 In our eyes, to his throne.**

**And I will sing of his greatness,
 And I will tell of his love,
 I will shout from the rooftops,
 All this I believe,
 All this I believe, all this I believe.**

Words and music: Ken Davis

OFFERTORY – AT 269

**Create in us a clean heart, O God.
 Renew within us a right spirit.
 Cast us not away from your presence, O Lord.
 and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
 Restore to us fullness of joy,
 the joy that springs from your salvation.
 Lighten our minds, shelter our lives
 with your Spirit free.**

Based on Psalm 51:10-12, AT 269; Used with permission

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, be with your whole church on earth, and the church in this country. Keep it faithful, and let your message of forgiveness through Christ be heard and believed. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Be with our synod and its leaders. We commend to you our Bishop John Henderson, our District Bishop David Altus and all our District Bishops. Uphold them in their office with true faith and a godly life.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Bless our country, Australia, and help those in authority to strive for harmony, honesty and justice. Remember our Queen, Elizabeth, our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, our Premier, Steven Marshall, those in our local government, and all who maintain law and order.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Guide our industry, our education, our arts, culture and leisure activities, our mass media, our science and technology. Be with the unemployed and the overworked, the sick and the aged, the poor, the needy and the lonely.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray especially for mothers today, for new mothers, coming to terms with both the joys and demands of motherhood; for pregnant mothers, expectant and wondering, or fearful; for those mothers who are tired, stressed, ill or depressed; for those who struggle to balance the demands of work and children; for those who have to struggle with difficult decisions about whether or not to become a mother or to have another child; for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty; for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; for those who have children they do not want; for those who raise children on their own; for those who have lost a child through death or abortion; for those who care for the children of others; for those whose children have left home; for those whose children have rejected their love; and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves, but for God and for others.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Help us to care for the land and protect its fragile environment, so that the blessings you give can be passed on to future generations.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Thank you, Father, that you hear us and care for us in all our needs. Open our eyes that we may see you in your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,† and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN – 467 For the beauty of the earth

**1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**2 For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**3 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**4 For Thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**5 For Thyself, best gift divine,
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)