**easter 5- may 7, 2023- zion lutheran, philpsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAnd acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For thousands of years, the Anishinabewaki, Haudenosaunee , Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They aided the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**GATHERING SONG*Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!* (ELW 380)**

1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!  
He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death  
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,  
bright forerunner to the skies  
of his people, yet to rise.  
  
2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?  
Why that sad and mournful sigh?  
Christ who died our brother here  
lives our brother still on high,  
lives forever to bestow  
blessings on his church below.  
  
3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,  
life eternal waits for you;  
joined to Christ, your living head,  
where he is, you shall be too;  
with the Lord, at God's right hand,  
as a victor you shall stand.  
  
4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.  
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.  
Praise him in a nobler song,  
cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the victor king, whose sway  
sin and death and hell obey.  
  
5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!  
Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your chorus swell the strain  
which our feebler voices raise:  
Glory to our God above  
and on earth his peace and love!

**announcments**

Welcome to worship on this fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023. Finally some warmer weather and a reprieve from the rain.

We welcome Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Adam Snook to Zion today. He began his role at Synod in 2020 and is a steady and calming presence. He originally hails from the East Coast and will join us for lunch to give all of you an opportunity to get to know him a little better.

I was chatting with Dikkie this week, she shared some good news. Her and Ron are great grandparents again along with Grandma Kathy Partridge. Jackie Partridge and Gordie Johnson welcomed a baby boy named Atlas Jasper on Sunday April 30. All are well.

Next Saturday is our cleaning bee and arbour day yard clean up. Bring a rake, or a bucket and some rags to spiff up our sanctuary and the property. A bbq will take place after.

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

Let us pray.

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.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

A reading from Acts.

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 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.  
 2**Incline 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.  
 4**Take 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.  
 15**My 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.”

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 143)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*You Are the Way* (ELW 758)**

1 You are the way; to you alone  
from sin and death we flee;  
all those who search for God, you find  
and by your grace set free.  
  
2 You are the truth; your word alone  
true wisdom can impart;  
you only can inform the mind  
and purify the heart.  
  
3 You are the life; the rending tomb  
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;  
and those who put their trust in you  
not death nor hell shall harm.  
  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life;  
grant us that way to know,  
that truth to keep, that life to win,  
whose joys eternal flow.

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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;** **he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,** **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and 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, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth’s diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. We pray for our western provinces as they deal with evacuations due to uncontrolled wildfires, we remember the province of Quebec and BC as they contend with flooding. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of wisdom and promise, we give thanks for our Bishops Susan and Michael, and Assistants Adam and Doug for their call to serve and shepherd the mission of the wider church. Help them to be steadfast in their leadership and to rely on your strength and promise as we journey into the future. Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth’s diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster *especially Lutheran World Relief*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are injured or ill in mind, body or spirit, *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Marlene, Felix, Randy, Brian, Gary, Debbie G, Jean, Ethan, Larry, the families of baby Atlas Jasper, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us (*especially*). Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

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.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)**

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

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

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS #461, #471**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)**

1 God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
  
Refrain  
Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.  
  
2 God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain  
  
3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

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