

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Mother's Day

May 10, 2020

**OPENING ANTHEM** "Call Her Blessed" [Stacey Noll] - listen  
*You knew me in my mother's womb, spoke my name before time  
You placed me in my mother's arms knowing I would be fine  
She saw my first steps, she heard my first word  
I'm fearfully and wonderfully made  
As I grew she taught me to follow You  
Showed me how to love the way You do  
Every time I fell, she was there to pick me up  
She held me close and then she let me go  
Bless the one who gave me life  
Bless the one who held me in her arms  
Bless the one who told me that Jesus loves me so  
You have heard her prayers, You have seen her tears  
We rise and call her blessed  
A mother's love is precious, so faithful and pure  
With tenderness she blesses much more than we deserve  
When I look into her eyes I begin to realize  
What a wonder her love has been to me (chorus)  
Bridge:  
Her faith lives on in us  
We are walking miracles because she followed You*

### INVOCATION AND OPENING VERSICLES (Psalm 113:5, 7, 9, ESV)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Who is like the Lord our God,

**People: who is seated on high.**

Pastor: He raises the poor from the dust

**People: and lifts the needy from the ash heap.**

Pastor: He gives the barren woman a home,

**People: making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Father, who loved us so much He sent His only-begotten Son to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life for us.

**People: Almighty God, You set the solitary in families and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. We confess that we have been rebellious children. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, both by what we have done and by what we have neglected to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us Your forgiveness. Create in us new hearts that we may magnify You as our saving Lord and rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.**

Pastor: He who is mighty has done great things and holy is His name. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. In remembrance of His mercy, demonstrated most clearly in the death of Jesus for you, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[Luke 1:49-50, 54, ESV]*

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE "Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB 895)

**1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.**

**2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!**

**3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.**

**FIRST READING** Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . <sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . <sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

<sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1-14**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON HYMN** "You are the Way, Through You Alone" (LSB 526)

**1 You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.**

**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 empty 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.**

## SERMON

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** [*from The Small Catechism, Luther's Explanation of the Fourth Commandment*]

Pastor: What is the Fourth Commandment?

**People: Honor your father and your mother.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.**

Pastor: Who are parents and other authorities?

**People: Parents are fathers, mothers, and guardians; other authorities are all those whom God has placed over us at home, in government, at school, at the place where we work, and in the Church.**

Pastor: What does God forbid in the Fourth Commandment?

**People: God forbids us to despise our parents and other authorities by not respecting them or angering them by our disobedience or by any other kind of sin.**

Pastor: What does God require of us in the Fourth Commandment?

**People: God requires us**

- **to honor our parents and other authorities by regarding them as God's representatives;**
- **to serve our parents and other authorities by gladly providing what they need or require;**
- **to obey our parents and other authorities in everything in which God has placed them over us;**

- **to love and cherish our parents and other authorities as precious gifts of God;**
- **to show respect to the aged.**

Pastor: What promise does God attach to this commandment?

People: “. . . **that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**” [Ephesians 6:3, NIV]

PRAYERS (please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray to the God of love on behalf of the whole Church and the world.

For the Church throughout the world: that she would abide in the love of Christ and in His life-giving words, and that He would embrace all in His love, granting abundant fruit in faith toward God and loving service to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our nation and its leaders: that God, the ruler of nations, would grant them wisdom to govern according to His commandments, and for the welfare of all people, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all mothers, through whom God has manifested His tender mercy, that they may be strengthened in their callings and that their lives may overflow with the love and honor of their children, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those wives and husbands who grieve the loss of children through miscarriage and stillbirth, and for those couples who have been unable to bear children, that they may be comforted in their sorrow and longing, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who suffer illness or injury and for those facing surgery [especially \_\_\_\_\_]: that Christ would grant them the balm of His patience and healing in both body and soul, that they be enabled to give continual thanks to Him with joyful hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who, having been embraced by Christ in faith, now rest in Him, especially our departed mothers, we give thanks and praise to the God of life. That God would bring us who live as yet by faith to the great assembly of the faithful to sing His praises for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

[Other prayers may be offered]

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your never-ending comfort, mercy, and grace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (all)

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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 favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" (LSB 922)

**1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own. In My love's baptismal river**

**I have made you Mine forever. Go, My children, with My blessing— You are My own.**

**2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you heard My dear Son's story;**

**Here you touched Him, saw His glory.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

**3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;**

**Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.**

**Here My Spirit's power filled you;**

**Here His tender comfort stilled you.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

**4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;**

**I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:**

**I the Lord will be your Father,**

**Savior, Comforter, and Brother.**

**Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.**