

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020



Introduction

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

We gather each week to worship and pray on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. For thousands of years they have walked on the land and paddled the waters of the Salish Sea. We are grateful to the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for their stewardship of these lands and adjoining waters throughout the ages.

Prelude – *Reflections, Dennis Alexander*

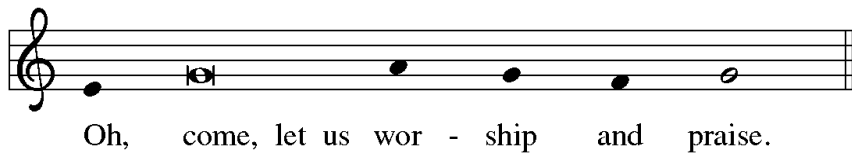
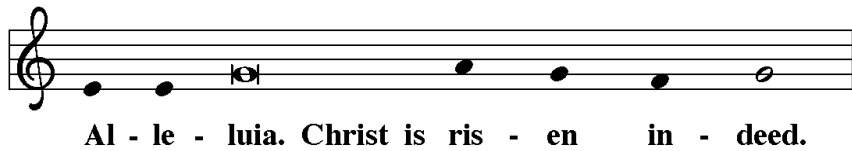
Dialogue

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.
And your glory all the day long.

If we have died with Christ,
We believe that we will also live with him.

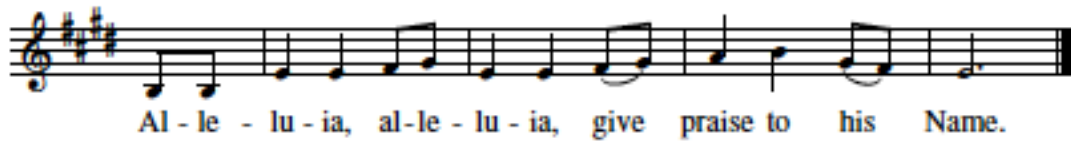
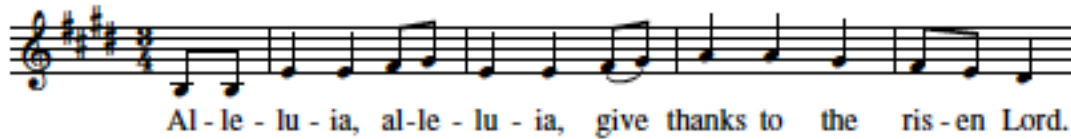
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia

Invitatory

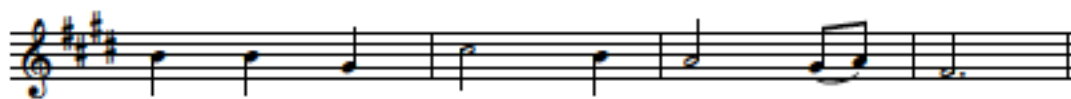


Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain



Verses



1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4. God has pro - claimed his gra - cious gift:
5. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,



He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for ev - er.
Life e - ter - nal for all who be - lieve.
Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950
Tune: ALLELUIA NO. 1, 8 8 with refrain; Donald Fishel, b.1950
© 1973, Word of God Music

Gospel: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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:] “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.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Reflection: Pastor Vida

I am the Way the Truth and the Life -

These words have often been understood as if Jesus was drawing a circle around himself and excluding those outside it. And while we do understand Jesus as the center that binds all things together in one, It is never our job to determine who's in and who's out; who's on the right path and who's got the truth in life.

I am the Way the Truth and the Life -

In and through these words Jesus declares that he is the way to know God's love; the truth of God's love; and the life that is God's love.

But God's love is not an abstract unattainable ideal or a set of feelings, but is rather characterized by the action of God in the person of Jesus Christ. What is this action? Jesus introduces us to see it when in Luke's "Gospel he goes to the Synagogue on the Sabbath and applies the words of isaiah to himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19).

This is how he understands God working in him and through him and we are called to participate in it. In calling disciples and creating a community of the Way, Jesus calls us to join him in his struggle for the liberation of human beings from all the forces of oppression.

In our world disrupted by the corona virus this has become more important than ever. Even as we take measures to protect ourselves we must resist the temptation to turn inward and away from the sufferings and needs of others. Some of us are enduring far more hurt than others. Al and I are together when many others are alone and isolated. We have a roof over our heads while the homeless sleep on sidewalks or in cramped spaces. We have income coming in, when so many have lost their jobs and cannot meet their rent. While the emergency government programs have helped alleviate some of these hardships, there are still too



By Mike DelGaudio (Flickr) [\[CC BY 2.0\]](#), [via Wikimedia Commons](#)

many who continue to fall through the cracks. I am grateful that our National Leader, Bishop Susan Johnson together with 41 Anglican and Lutheran Bishops has written a letter to the Canadian Government calling on the need for a Guaranteed Basic Income... so that no one is left in the precarious position where they cannot feed and house themselves and their families. We also can do our part and write, email, phone our MP of parliament and voice our support. This is how we participate in God's way of love ... in God's work enacted in Jesus Christ and continuing through the work of the church.

The unequal suffering caused by the pandemic is perhaps nowhere more acute than in the world's refugee camps. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, refugees and asylum seekers were living in positions of vulnerability and marginalization. Now, with refugee camps on lockdown and the physical movement of refugees is now more restricted than before, they have even less access to health care. Humanitarian workers are leaving camps. Doctors working with non-governmental organizations face the impossible decision of remaining in the camps with little personal protective equipment, drugs or ventilators. Most refugee camps lacking

basic necessities, like soap and running water to begin with. That is why I am grateful for CLWR for their goal to give clean water and hygiene supplies to over 5,000 displaced families in Ethiopia who are especially vulnerable to the pandemic. Even as we continue to support our local congregation, let us also remember those whose suffering is greater than ours. God's love is not abstract, neither is it simply a feeling of sympathy, but is characterized by action ... God's action in and through Jesus Christ who loved us while we were yet sinners, and God's action continuing through us and out into the world.

A bishop currently serving the Episcopal church in the USA sums it up:

This is our unique calling as Christians: to become icons of redemption through our own acceptance of a love we don't deserve but have received anyway. This is the way the Incarnation ripples out from Christ and sometimes goes viral. Through our witness to God's forgiveness in our own lives, our readiness to forgive others, and our willingness to be in communion [and solidarity] with the suffering of others without exception, [when we do these things]—the whole world will come to know its infinite worth for the one through whom it was made:

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life.

Scriptural Antiphon

I Am the Way: Follow Me



The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff has the lyrics "I am the Way: fol - low me." The second staff has the lyrics "I am the Truth: be - lieve in me." The third staff has the lyrics "I am the Life: dwell in me, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and melismatic, with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes.

Verses



The musical notation for the verses consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "al - le - lu - ia." are written below the staff. Above the staff, the word "All:" is written, indicating that this is a full choir or all-congregation response. The melody is simple and melismatic, with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes.

Music and text from *Psallite*, © 2007, The Collegeville Composers Group. All rights reserved.
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Hymn of the Day: ELW 414

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900

Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

PRAYERS

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church in this time of pandemic. Help us remember that we are still sent forth to proclaim your love. Release your spirit to help us find creative new ways to build one another up to share the gospel with a hurting world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Humble us, Creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for the world's leaders that they would lead not from a place of reaction or from arrogance or hatred, but lead from a place of hope and compassion; that they would not forget the refugee and asylum seeker but tend to their needs for safety and medical care as much as their own. We give thanks for Canadian World Relief and their partners for providing clean water and hygiene supplies to refugees in Uganda and the most vulnerable in Ethiopia. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, we pray for parents who are tending and teaching their children at home while juggling work and other commitments, we pray expectant parents who are anxious for their safety as they prepare to give birth, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day (*Mother's Day*) is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.



God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens *especially those family and friends* who have asked us for our prayers_____. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

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.
Gracious God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Sustainer,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn ELW 760 – O Christ the Same

O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Music: RED HILL ROAD, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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Postlude – Nocturne in D flat major



We are grateful to Sonja Koruga, Shelley Meglaughlin, Jason Assam, Marianne Cross for sharing their gifts in bringing this Home Worship service to you this Sunday

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Announcements:

Next Sunday May 17, Easter 6A - the sermon will be brought to you by Bishop Susan Johnson.

Tuesday, May 12, 1:30PM - Book Study on Prayer via Zoom. Contact Pastor Vida for details



Don't forget to 'like' our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GDLCNV to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Music Director: Sonja Koruga

Church Council Chair: Candace Strom

Vice Chair: Ken Parkinson

Church Council Members: Shelley Meglaughlin, Maureen Kerfoot,
Gail Berger, Kathleen Stoll