

American Lutheran Church/Filley, NE  
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom  
5th Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2020

P: We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16) NLT

P: O Lord, I have come to you for protection;

**C: don't let me be disgraced.**

P: Save me, for you do what is right.

**C: Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly.**

P: Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe.

**C: You are my rock and my fortress.**

**For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.**

P: Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me,

**C: for I find protection in you alone.**

P: I entrust my spirit into your hand.

**C: Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.**

P: My future is in your hands.

**C: Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.**

P: Let your favor shine on your servant.

**C: In your unfailing love, rescue me.**

CONFESSION/ASSURANCE (United Church of Christ's Worship Ways)

P: If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties,  
God will meet us and renew us.**

**Before God and God's people, I confess that I have  
been reluctant to speak out clearly,  
naming the injustice I see and declaring God's vision.**

**Before God and one another,  
we confess our reluctance  
to receive our calling as God's people,  
made by God and chosen as witnesses  
to God's dream of justice and joy.**

**Remind me, God,  
that you have made me for your service  
and recharge me with your Word.**

**Renew us, God.**

**Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace.**

**We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

P: God has promised that whenever we repent  
and seek a new union with God,  
forgiveness is ours.  
That promise comes true now.  
Sisters and brothers, as a called and ordained minister  
Of the church of Christ and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire  
forgiveness of all of your sins,  
in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together,

**C: Lord Jesus, you have promised that all who believe in you will be with you and the Father in Eternity. Increase our faith. Encourage us in your way that we might do the mighty works you long for. Amen.**

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

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 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.

### **John 14:1-14 Jesus the Way to the Father**

'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.'

MESSAGE - Pastor LuRae

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Written by Gil Le Fevre)

P: Almighty Lord, Heavenly Father, Mothering God,  
beyond our understanding, yet from deep within our hearts we cry out to you. As your beloved children, we bring before you all that we are: sorrow, pain, hope, joy.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Compassionate God: Console those denied the chance to celebrate Mother's Day – the abandoned, the separated, the disappointed;  
bring us all together as your family of faith. Sustain those who mourn loved ones; for whom today is a day of grief. Comfort us with the wellspring of our memories.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Unifying God: Inspire us to advocate for peace,  
and guide us to see the part we can play in creating harmony in this world.  
Reconcile us to each other, that we might embody your forgiveness and live as one.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Bountiful God: Kindle in us a celebration of the diversity of all families,  
of all shapes and sizes, of all colours and faiths. Teach us to grow in compassion and understanding, remembering that even with our differences we are all your children.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Nurturing God: Encourage us to share in the joy and effort of making healthy, peaceful communities. Open our hearts to reach out to our neighbours in charity and acceptance.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Mothering God, beyond our understanding, yet from deep within our hearts,  
we reach up to you: Take us up in your arms and heal us. Bend down to us and feed us.  
Wrap us in your bands of love.

Lord in your mercy,

**C: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Glory be to you O Lord; your comfort and care know no bounds. May we rest in your abundant love, which nurtures us from age to age, as we pray together the prayer that 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.**

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**