

Worship in the Home
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

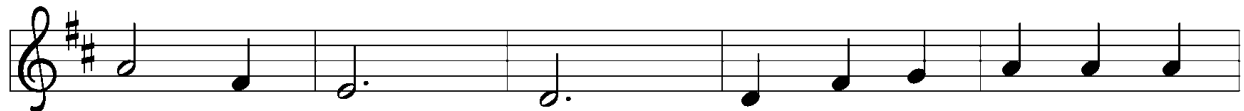
Opening Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW # 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

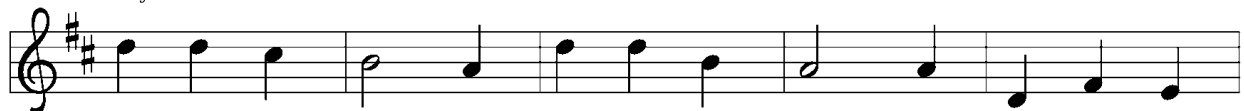


fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The 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.**

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

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

Gospel: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said:] 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 Jesus, “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. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen my Father.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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. 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.

Reflection

Thomas knows neither the way nor where Jesus is going. Philip wants to see God. These disciples stand for us, now, in our need and confusion. But Jesus himself is the way, the truth, and the life. He is himself the presence of God. The amazing thing is that he goes to God now by going to the cross, and he makes that place of suffering to be the very dwelling place of God with us. Henceforth, in every place of suffering we see the risen Christ already there, like Stephen sees him coming. In Jesus, God has mercy on us and makes us together the house of God and the witnesses to God's mighty acts. In the Spirit, Jesus' words come to us, to our own homes, and make our homes to be part of this house of God with many rooms. In this difficult time, we can at least turn to our neighbors with our prayers and gifts, for God's mercy is for all.

Prayers of Intercession

Still worshiping from our homes, but with our hearts bonded into one, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "make haste to deliver us."

Build us up, mothering God, that like living stones we embody the strength that only you can give. Nurse all the baptized with the milk of your word. As you provided the early church with the apostle Matthias, fill now the churches' needs for leaders to serve your holy people. O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

Form us to be humble participants in your complex creation. We praise your power in evolving a magnificent earth, from flowering trees to tropical rainstorms, from black holes to beloved pets. Lead us to respect your wondrous earth with both all that creates and all that destroys. O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

Assist the leaders of nations to find and follow your ways of justice. Guide their way through the challenges of pandemic and poverty. Protect governors and legislators from sickness and burn-out. Despite our own considerable needs, keep us mindful of the needs of others, especially refugees and prisoners. O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

Accompany those who are sick, sorrowful, or confused. Comfort them in suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We beg you to protect us from the coronavirus, and we pray for those we name in our hearts before you. O God, incline your ear to us: **make haste to deliver us.**

Sustain those who mother infants and children. Uphold the parents and grandparents who now must school their children. Provide enough food and resources for families. Grant safe pregnancy and delivery to expectant parents, and minister to those who endure infertility and miscarriage. Bless the countless relatives, medical workers, and hospice volunteers who give to others mothering care. Embrace all for whom today's cultural celebration of mothers is difficult. O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

Always, loving God, we are bold to add our own petitions: O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

We remember before you for all who have died in the faith, those like Stephen martyred for the faith, those struck down by the coronavirus, and those whom we name now in our hearts.

At the end, bring us all to you, who are our way, our truth, and our life. O God, incline your ear to us: **Make haste to deliver us.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord, who taught 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.

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Please Join us on Zoom for the Postlude, Closing Hymn, and Fellowship

ID: 596-621-1441

Password: 8675309

Closing Hymn

You Are the Way

ELW #758



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Worship Schedule

Monday: Hymn Devotions, 9AM & 9PM (pre-recorded)

Tuesday-Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM

Tuesday-Friday: Kids' Devotions & Otto Sings Camp's Greatest Hits, Midday

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer, 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM

Tuesday: Camp Sequanota Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (Zoom link on Camp's page)

Study Schedule

Wednesday: 10AM Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday: 3PM & 7PM Book Study on Zoom: *The Quotidian Mysteries* by Kathleen Norris
(Attend either session as convenient; read through pages 42-60)

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 102:1-17. **Tuesday** Proverbs 3:5-12. **Wednesday** John 8:31-38. **Thursday** (Matthias, Apostle) Luke 6:12-16. **Friday** Genesis 7:1-24. **Saturday** John 14:27-29. **Sixth Sunday of Easter** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Betty Jane Moore, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: John Aljets, Jerry Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Donna Corle, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, George Gilbert Sr., Shari Gilbert, Crystal Faust-Harbaugh, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jillian, Melissa Johnson, Connie Kensinger, Dan Kensinger, Anna Klepser, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Sandy Loomis, Kristen Malloy, Savannah McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Ray Overdorff, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Michele Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Matt Straesser, Cindy Thomas, Dave Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Todd Yingling, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Those Serving Overseas: Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

Committee Chairs: Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email (stmatthewluth@aol.com) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

Weekly Bulletins and Messengers are available on the NEW website (stmatthewlc.com) for viewing or printing.

Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson at DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET

Deadline to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020**. Funds will be distributed in June 2020.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given by using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.