

AUGUSTANA

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

EASTER 5 May 10, 2020

WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING “Built on a Rock” # 652 (v. 1 & 3)

Built on the Rock, the church shall stand
even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
bells still are chiming and calling,
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

Christ builds a house of living stones,
We are his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace;
Blessings upon them bestowing

GREETING

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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

I met with the kids again this week in the virtual world. I was prepared with my building blocks ... a wall built of people ... duplo and lego people that is. We were going to talk about what it means to be church. You know the old Sunday school song “The church is not a building; the church is not a *steeple*; the church is not a *resting place*; the church is a *people* ... *I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together*”

I thought it was a good idea at the time BUT as I have experienced from time to time during the Sunday morning children's time things went sideways. The kids were on cell phones that have an app that turns their face into different things. So as we were talking their faces turned into fire breathing dragons, and zombies and bunny

princesses and talking pizza heads. At one point there was a bat flying at me and I felt at home. It was chaotic. But something important came out of that time.

That app that turns your face into different things has to start with something. There has to be a face before any of the crazy things can happen. The face on the phone is the foundation for all the silly adaptations that come after. If you don't have that foundation, that face, then the app doesn't work. You need a foundation on which to build.

Long ago and maybe not so long ago we called that the cornerstone. Our church building has a cornerstone. But the church that is made up of people also has a cornerstone ... a foundation on which our Christian faith is built. And that is Jesus.

So whether we meet in a building or in the virtual world we have the same foundation: Jesus. Not a virtual Jesus, a real Jesus.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe
Just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? /refrain

For you alone are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and worship before you,
For your just and holy works have been revealed. /refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Generous God, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share in the work of peace; through Jesus Christ the cornerstone. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
 Word of life Jesus Christ, all praise to you!
 Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.
 Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
 Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to St. John chapter 14 **Glory to you, O Lord**

'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.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be
 satisfied.' 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"? 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. Believe 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. Very 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

"Built on the rock the church must stand" "The stone that was rejected but became the cornerstone." In the troubled and often chaotic times of the early church the bedrock foundation that gave them form and meaning was the witness and ministry of Jesus. Jesus - the still point around which everything was centred.

And in our present time where chaos hovers on the periphery of daily life and we are forced to do things differently Jesus' life and ministry is also the still point around which our life and faith revolves.

For many years in pastor and church circles we have talked about changing times and shifting paradigms. Sometimes talking around and around in circles. But the talk was often theoretical. But now we have been forced to move beyond talk. We have to do things differently. And it is uncomfortable. My training and experience as a chaplain and pastor did not prepare me for this. So many things in our digital world make my eyes glaze over.

And it is not just my life and experience. Many, if not most of us, are feeling unsteady ... unanchored. How do we worship together, how do we care for our elders who feel the isolation so keenly? How will we find ways to pass on the faith to our children in these new and changing times.

I don't want to assume that you are feeling the same way I am, but I am feeling unsettled. My home ... my faith home The place where I have been fed and watered spiritually ... where I feel at home ... seems to be changing faster than I can change myself.

And if the church walls are indeed built of people who are the family of God, then there is a big gap in our wall now that Georgina, our admin. assistant, has gone on ahead of us all to the home prepared for her by God.

I don't know where this is all leading ... like Thomas I plead ... **Lord I don't know where you are going with this** ... Where is the church headed? Where is the world headed?

But I know all shall be well ... there will be something left for coming generations. My heart is troubled and I am very sad. But Jesus' words speak to me as they spoke to Thomas and everyone wondering and questioning.

Don't let your hearts be troubled trust me there are many dwelling places for God's people....

The foundation remains solid whether the cornerstone supports a brick and mortar building or a community of faith gathered in many and various means, the foundation is the same: a real Jesus ... not a virtual Jesus. The same Jesus we have known in the past.

SONG "Let us Build a House Where Love can Dwell" # 641 (v. 1, 4)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: /refrain

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

- Apostles' Creed

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.

- Prayer of Confession

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S RESPONSE TO US

Hear then God's response: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each short prayer will end with the words "Lord in your mercy." You can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer.**"

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.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for church communities as they seek new ways to worship, serve and support one another. 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. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who govern during challenging times and for all people in countries ravaged by strife, warfare or illness. For all who are most vulnerable during this pandemic: refugees, the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families; people living in poverty or crowded conditions, the elderly, those who already struggle with health issues, and those who are incarcerated. 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. We pray for the Krenn family as they mourn the loss of wife and mother, Georgina. We pray also for our congregation as we entrust Georgina to God's care. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray also for all in need of healing in body and spirit especially: Jennie, Logan, William, Marcus, Brody, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Deanna, Carol, Wilma, Mary, and all who we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the communion of faith that goes beyond the walls of our church building, for the love of God that is embodied in our risen savior Jesus and for all gifts of healing and forgiveness, especially we thank you for those who use their gifts to help us through this pandemic: medical staff, caregivers, cleaners, grocery workers, truckers, and all those who work in essential services. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, 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 is difficult. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to trust your promise of an eternal home. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

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

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

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

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. AMEN.

SENDING SONG Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ # 674 (v. 2 & 3)

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! /refrain

Go in Peace to love and serve our risen Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!