

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020 - 10:00 AM

## Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223  
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



*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.*

### GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

*You may send your photos and/or God Stories to [GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org). Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand as able*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
*(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)*

Pastor: Faithful and just God,

People: **we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of † Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

People: **Amen.**

*We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.*

## GATHERING SONG

*"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Text: Herbert F. Brokering; © 1995 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **People: And also with you.**

Pastor: 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. **People: Amen.**

*We are seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the Lent-Easter bucket collection (Disaster Response).*

*Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.*

## FIRST READING

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

Lector: A reading from Acts.

*Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. (Acts 7:55-60)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

Lector: In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

**People: Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

Lector: Be 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.

**People: Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

Lector: Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

**People: My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

Lector: Let your face shine upon your servant;

**People: save me in your steadfast love."**

## SECOND READING

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

Lector: A reading from 1 Peter.

*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 marvelous 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. (1 Peter 2:2-10)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

### GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

*[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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." (John 14:1-14)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We are seated

### MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



## HYMN OF THE DAY

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

*Text: Frederick W. Faber, All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## NICENE CREED

**People:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: 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 +*

Pastor: 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 new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking good health, recovery, refuge and safety. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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 especially for *Jeannie Hurlbert; Jerry Appleton; Margaret Blank, Nancy Baldwin, Bunie Talbert, Charles Kauffman; JoAnn Pulse; the Freas/Wittle/Pollard families; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud.* Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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. *We pray especially our living mothers, grandmothers and caregivers, whom we name before you now....* Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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, as we give thanks for the witness of those who dwell forever in your presence, *especially our departed mothers, grandmothers and caregivers, whom we name before you now...* Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face continued uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

*Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us with your love and grace, for service in your name in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION (IN TIME OF FASTING FROM THE MEAL)

Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we have been fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we fast from the Lord's Supper on this day, we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion, as we look forward to the joy of that day when we will again be gathered and fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal this day for reasons you understand, we sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting that day when we may fully share in his meal, we still remember, and cherish in our hearts, the words uplifting this great and glorious gift which Jesus gave us:

**People: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."**

*We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and looking forward to that day when we will all be gathered again around the Lord's Table.*



## SONG FOR REFLECTION

### "Gravity of Love"

1. *I lift my eyes up to the hills  
This my morning song  
Where my strength comes from  
I lift my eyes up to the hills  
This my evening song  
Where my help comes from (to Chorus)*

2. *We lift our eyes up to the hills  
When will our help come  
Lord we cry how long  
We lift our eyes up to the hills  
Even as we run  
Hope is chasing us (to Chorus)*

#### CHORUS

help comes from. This is the grav - i - ty of  
chas - ing us.

love, just as the moon fol-lows the sun, You're all a - round me,  
You're hold - ing ev - 'ry-thing. This is the hope of ev - 'ry  
land, just as the u - ni-verse ex - pands, Your love is reach - ing,  
You're hold - ing ev - 'ry-thing.

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

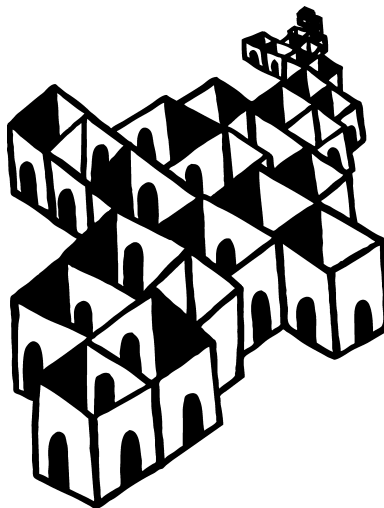
CCLI Song # 7069911; David Gungor | John Arndt | Matt Maher; © Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com; CCLI License # 11402641

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Pastor:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**People:** **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.**

+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING THE RISEN JESUS SENDING US INTO THE WORLD +





# SENDING SONG

## "Soon and Very Soon"



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon

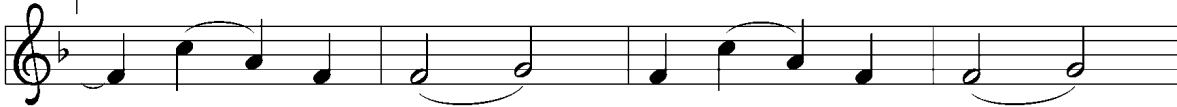


soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

*Text & Music: Andrae Crouch; © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc.; All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** 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. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**People:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Pastor:** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



## Easter Seasonal Emphasis

*"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!" - Matthew 28:5-6*

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

#### *Along the Way*

The underground railroad that saved the lives of countless enslaved husbands and mothers and babies tortured by America's original sin of slavery depended upon safe refuge along the journey to freedom—a place prepared.

Through desert dangers where thieves waited and beasts preyed in the night, weary travelers along the Silk Road took restful shelter in inns along their way—a place prepared.

From the dense streets of Kolkata, India, where poverty's scourges lie thick over crowds of people, and disease lingers in the sluggish air, humble compassion clad in white and blue saris gathers the wretched into a home for the destitute and dying—a place prepared.

Around the globe, in the midst of despair, people fleeing from war die in the sea, are lost in the desert, swarm at borders, scale walls, weep at fences, hang on trains, trudge every landscape imaginable hoping for a home at the end of a trail—a place prepared.

Jesus promised the most remarkable thing to his disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). And they asked, "Where? We don't understand! Show us!" Jesus' answer to his disciples does not offer a spiritualized road to heaven or a settled spot in Galilee, but it does offer all that matters: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus is the destination and the path. There is a refuge—a place prepared—in his love. The home of peace and safety that we all long for is found in Jesus. Jesus is with us all along the roads, streets, and alleyways, in places unseen and unknown. Jesus is with us, goes before us to prepare the place, and shows us the way.

May Books of the Month: 1 & 2 Corinthians

