

Mother's Day Blessings

Have a Lovely Day!

Proverbs 31:28

KJV

Her children arise up,
and call her blessed

Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 10, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP: The bells of St. John's at 10:00am

WELCOME ~ This is Rev. Ela Robertson, pastor for St. John's Lutheran and West Kish Presbyterian in Belleville, PA. We joyously ring in our worship with the bells of St. Johns welcoming all listeners to this service on the 5th Sunday in the Easter Season. Our worship team this morning includes: Anne Harshbarger - homily on the gospel, Joe Kanagy and Matt Waddell readers, Lisa Griffith - cantor/singer, Ken Jacobsen composer and Mike Bratt - guitar, John Haubrick - organ, William Cullingford - recording tech, and Joy Byler and Kelly Byler - bulletins. Parts of the bulletin may be omitted in the broadcast.

Come, Thou Almighty King

522

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, Help us thy name to
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on thy might - y
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred wit - ness
4 To thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal prais - es

sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic -
sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, And give thy
bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, Now rule in
be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign maj - es - ty May we in

to - ri - ous, Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
Word suc - cess, And let thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

HYMN ~ "Come, Thou Almighty King"

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

L: Confident that however we may fall we will be lifted up, let us bring our confessions before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example. When we have been judged we have judged others, When we have been called names we have named others unfairly, When others have thrown insults we too have picked up stones to throw. Lord, let your presence stand before us wherever we go. Help us to know the very moment in our habits and impulses when we can drop the stones of incrimination and pick up the rock of faith, so that we may build up this world with your love and justice.

L: Friends, know we are children of a loving God. By God's grace we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. AMEN

KYRIE ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

P: Kyrie Eleison **Lord Have Mercy**

P: Christe Eleison **Christ Have Mercy**

P: Kyrie Eleison **Lord Have Mercy**

THE PEACE

L: Let us share our peace with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

Let us extend the peace, to the North, South, East and West, beyond the walls of our homes and into the world.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen Christ, you prepare a place for us, in the home of the Mothering -and-Fathering God of us all. Draw us more deeply into yourself, so that when our hearts are troubled, we will know you more completely as the way, the truth, and the life. Help us to know you through your word today. Amen.

LESSONS and PSALM (you are encouraged to read these in your celebrate, bulletin or Bible before the service.)

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10

REFLECTION on THE LESSONS *Words and Stones*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Rocks, from the jagged faces of the Rocky Mountains or the Himalayas to rounded stones of a river bed and even the finest sand on a Pacific beach are ways that the magnificent beauty of God's creation is proclaimed.

In addition to inciting awe, The Bible often uses rocks and stones as images of faith. In the lectionary readings today, Psalm 31 proclaims God's protection with "*Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. . . You are indeed my rock and my fortress.*" 1 Peter 2:4-5 speaks of Christ as a living stone, the cornerstone of our faith and of our church. Disciples are encouraged also to be living stones, together building up the church.

Yet in the Acts description of the martyrdom of Stephen the stones are not metaphors or symbols but the hard reality of life blunting hate in the hands of a mob. Stephens's words proclaiming God's love, faith and forgiveness may have only been heard between the clash of rocks. It is more than likely that many words of judgment and incrimination were tossed about before even the first stone was lifted.

Though this story of the first Christian martyr is set in a time nearly two thousand years ago, sadly, similar events have happened at the hands of high school bullies in our country or by proclamation of religious fundamentalists in Syria who less than a dozen years ago stoned to death a young woman who dared go against their laws. Stephen dared to go against the laws. Stephen was stoned for his fervent witness to the risen Christ yet his faith in God's protection as in Psalm 31 never wavered.

In our world, the damaging power of words is often countered by the sing-song advice my grandmother gave me: “sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Yet, we know that words can be abusive, words can be hurtful, and can lead to physical abuse as well.

Can we lift that stone of disagreement, of distrust, of incrimination, of even hate and look Christ in the face, the living God that says I love you and the other too?

In John 8 Christ stops peoples’ thoughts of raising stones against a woman with these words "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." Can we seriously see Christ in front of us, look Christ in the face and not let loose that fist holding that stone ready to be thrown? Can we not release into a gesture of thanksgiving and welcome? What a blessing if that could open up in us. Habits, our habitual ways of thinking can often be permeated with judging and blaming, and they can often become the unconscious platform for unloving or unhealthy behavior. Can we just become aware of the moment we are thinking of saying or doing something hurtful, can we become aware of that and with Christ’s loving face in front of us just let it go? Can we do this in the face of our enemies too? Can we become so saturated with, so immersed in God’s love that there is no way we could even lift a stone of hate or judgement?

I would like to end with a song by Ken Jacobsen that has only three simple words “I love you.” You may have heard the song before but you can never hear enough of these words. I ask you to listen to this song knowing that God sings this to us in every breath we take.

You may imagine singing this to grandkids or family members you have not been able to see, or imagine a beloved one far away or even a deceased mother or loved ones singing it to you. Or hunker down with someone you’ve been kept at home with for over a month now and patience may be growing thin and just listen to these words together. Or rock a child when both of you don’t even realize you are impatient with being at home and not seeing and playing with friends and just restoke your love.

And what about when we’re on the other side? Can we listen to this song and imagine singing it to our enemies too, as Stephen, As Jesus did? Three minutes of hearing those three words may seem like a long time, but if in that time we can open to even 3 seconds of loving our enemy (even the corona virus), even 30 seconds of feeling love towards other or even a minute of knowing we are loved by God, the doors to God’s house may open up for us in ways we could never imagine.

Silent Prayer and REFLECTION with MUSIC

I Love You by Ken Jacobsen, performed by Mike Bratt, voice and guitar

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL ~ John 14:1-14

REFLECTION on the GOSPEL

Anne Harshbarger - a St. John’s member and Camp Mt. Luther leader

L The Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-14 **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

(after the reading)

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ**

Recently I discovered a clay-animation children’s series from the 60’s and 70’s called “Davey and Goliath”. The show was produced by the Lutheran Church in America and the first episode aired in 1961. The episode even starts out with little characters playing “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” next to a Luther Rose. The main characters are a young boy named Davey and his talking dog Goliath. Together they learn to have faith in God through everyday adventures!

I watched the first episode, called “Lost in a Cave”, where Davey wonders from his group while on a tour of a cave with his family and the tour guide drops everything to find and rescue Davey. Davey’s father tells him that this is what God’s love for him is like. I thought this show was a real treasure to find, and perhaps some of you remember it being on television on Sunday afternoons.

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus says to the disciples (in verses 11 and 12) “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the work themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.”

Right now, in the midst of a natural disaster, the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be easy to lose sight of God and ask, “where are you??” But this reading reminds us that God is here with us, and here within us as we reach out to help our neighbors in need. In a newer and smaller clip of Davey and Goliath from 2010, Davey is watching the news and is saddened by a report of another disaster happening, where bad things are happening to God’s people in the world. Davey shares the awful news with his dog Goliath but reassures the dog that he is thankful that God is there with his people, no matter what happens. This short clip was made by the Lutheran church in America as a part of their “God’s work. Our Hands” initiative, and Davey tells Goliath that “God is there through the hands of the people who help after (and in the midst of) a disaster.” God is here with us now, within us and our neighbors.

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 559

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing My great Re-deem-er's praise, The
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim, To
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears And bids our sor-rows cease, Sings
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; He sets the pris-'ner free. His

glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of his grace!
 spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of your name.
 mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.
 blood can make the foul-est clean; His blood a-vails for me.

5 To God all glory, praise, and love By saints below and saints above,
 Be now and ever giv'n The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829

AZMON
CM

MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ Matt Waddell

OFFERTORY (you may submit your offering by mail, drop it off at the church or include it your automatic bill paying program from your bank.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. Amen

Please read the APOSTLES CREED at home- Proclaiming our Faith

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS of the CHURCH ~ *Please pray the prayers in the celebrate insert, on our prayer list and for all the concerns you hold in your heart.*

We pray especially today for Women of the Church with this prayer from Rev. Debbie Sluder, currently in Florida, a member of West Kish Presbyterian:

A Prayer for Mother's Day

We pray O Lord, for our mothers who have given us life, and love. For mothers, grand mothers, great- grand mothers, aunts, foster mothers, mother-laws, and our sisters who are mothers. We give thanks for their lives. We pray O Lord for mothers who have suffered great loss including death of children or miscarriages. For single mothers on their own. For women without children but who care for us; babysitters, scout leaders, teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, youth mentors, day care teachers, Sunday school teachers, club/ sports helpers. etc... We pray for mothers who have been unable to nurture us because of addiction, incarceration, mental challenges and physical illnesses. We also pray O Lord for mothers on the front lines of this virus- postal workers, EMTS, medical workers, police, factory workers, farmers, teachers, clerks, cashiers, cooks, pastors and the many who fear that they may bring home the virus to their love ones. May we honor all mothers, as Jesus has taught us to love one another. Amen

Embracing Lord, Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(at home)*

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 today our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses (debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us (debtors); 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 **based on the writings of St. Anselm (1033-1109).**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Often you weep over our sins and our pride, tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment. You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Gather your little ones to you, O Go

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness; for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Gather your little ones to you, O God.

For each of us were once little ones and remain forever in the need of your mothering nurturance. Amen.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us: May God bless all mothers, and all their children who are all God's children.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN ~ "For All the Faithful Women"

Parts of our liturgy today are adapted from Sundays and Seasons from Augsburg Fortress and from Kimberly Bracken Long. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Volume 1 John Knox Press.

THE CHURCH

324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123
Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com
St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Sally Johnson, Jane Cullen, Mary Byler (mother of Jay Byler), Audrey Michael, Sally Shingler (in VVH), Donna Snook (in a nursing facility under Hospice care) sisters of Lucy Magda, Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith, Nancy Aumiller.

We continue to air our Sunday worship at 10:30am on radio stations AM 670 or FM 92.9 or biglewie.com. Scroll down and click on 'Listen'.

St. John's is ringing its bell (**approx. 10:00am, note time change**) every Sunday morning before our radio worship service begins. Open a window or step outside and listen for its beautiful toll.

An ecumenical group is gathering in their cars at Lewistown Hospital once a week to pray and offer encouragement to the hospital workers. A leader of the group will collect donations of goodies, etc., for hospital staff. These cannot be homemade, only individually wrapped items. If anybody would like to donate money or items to this drive they can be dropped off in the library or church office.

The denominational leaders are advising churches on possible *stage yellow* transition plans, and our council/session will be discerning how best to proceed at our May meeting. Pastor would really like people to let us know your personal thoughts on whether or when you would feel safe gathering together for worship in the sanctuary. Please let your Good Shepherd know when they contact you again.

Help people and ministries affected by COVID-19
GIVE THROUGH YOUR CONGREGATION
Make checks payable to your congregation; write your designation ("ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund") in the memo line.

You are invited to join the Gospel Echoes Team prison ministry for a LIVESTREAM presentation for Belleville, PA. Monday, May 11, 2020 6:30 PM. The presentation will include Gospel Music by the Harvest Team, Mercy Road Team and New Life Team. Special guest speaker Jerry Detweiler will be giving testimony to his prison work as a Gospel Echoes Bible Study Grader. Jerry has graded over a 1000 Gospel Echoes Bible Study Correspondence Courses. You will be encouraged by these life changing stories. Donations can be made via website or by calling the office during the livestream. Go to www.gospelechoes.com click on livestream tab, find link to your area livestream.

For more information, EMAIL: info@gospelechoes.com or CALL: 574-533-0221.

In addition to the high number of Covid cases and health conditions compromised by anxiety, we know that Pennsylvania has been one of the states hardest hit by lay-offs, furloughs, and unemployment applications,. Yet, it has been difficult to identify who is in need and when they are in greatest need. Have the payroll protection plan grants, stimulus checks and unemployment additions kicked in or are people strapped while they wait for them and have a back log of bills when they get them? It's hard to know but we do know there are people in our church and Day Care community who need to stay home and not work for health concerns, are trying to run little businesses with little business, are on limited incomes, or are lacking hourly work or are off work, all who might be experiencing a financial crunch.

People want to reach out to their local community and particularly their church family by donating to the discretionary fund. There may also be funds available from our Synod and Presbytery soon. If you know of someone in need - including your self or your family- please speak to the pastor or your Good Shepherd and know it will be held in confidence.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson



Celebrate

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

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.

Prayer of the Day

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

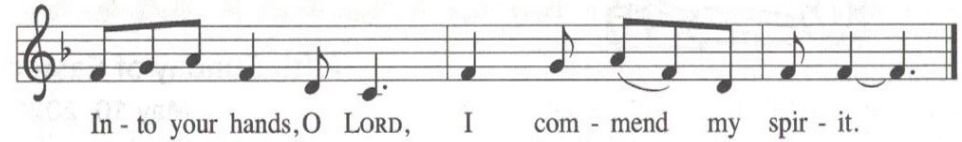
Acts 7:55-60

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.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; refrain, Ps. 31:5



- In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.
- ²**Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.
- ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.
- ⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength. R
- ⁵Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, ¹ God of truth.
- ¹⁵**My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who ¹ persecute me.
- ¹⁶Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love. R

Christ is the cornerstone of God's building with him the foundation of our lives. He are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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."

⁷To 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,"

⁸and "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.

⁹But 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.

¹⁰Once 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

John 14:1-14

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 prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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 as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. 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 countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next 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.

CELEBRATE May 10, 2020

Volume 51, Number 2

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Mark Sedo. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our Web site at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A. CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

14 of 15
Tracks 1 and 2

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*). 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.**