Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021





The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Heavenly Father, may we in genuine faith always firmly cling to the truth that Jesus Christ is not only the world's Savior but also our dear Savior. Help us to trust Jesus quite apart from what our eyes might see or what the opinions and emotions of our sinful hearts might be. You favor us for the sake of Jesus, and therefore we are your dear children. Let not Satan convince us that we are lost souls because of our many sins. Rather, let us cling in faith to the assurance of our Savior that You will be merciful to us for His sake. May we in eternal joy behold the reality of what we have believed. In Your Son's precious name. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink

for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017611 Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017611 Invocation Matthew 28:19b: 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Prayer for Forgiveness

- P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.





Service of the Word

Introit



A little while, and you will see me no | longer;* and again a little while, and you will | see me.

I will extol you, my | God and King,* and bless your name forever and | ever.

Every day I will | bless you* and praise your name forever and | ever.

The LORD is gracious and | merciful,* slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,* and all your saints shall bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,* and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;* and again a little while, and you will | see me.



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.



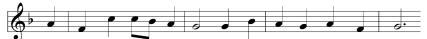
1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth; 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa-ther's Son, we pray; 3 For You a-lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er. Be wor-shiped and a - dored:



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing— Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



Gradual



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor. He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle: 1 John 4:1-11

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand



Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

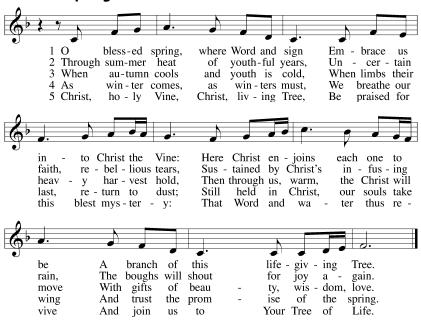
> And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the **Scriptures** and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life 🕂 of the world to come. Amen.

595 O Blessed Spring



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Sermon

"Descendants of Jesus"

Text: Acts 8:26-40



Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.



Offering

There is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your offerings.



Service of the Sacrament

444

Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

+++

Stand

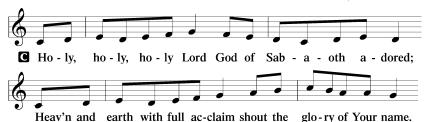
Preface

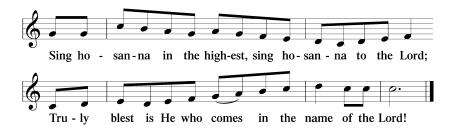
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **Q** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **1** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9





Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ⅓ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G Amen.









Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Distribution

Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate



- 5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing To the Father's home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die. Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest: Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.
- △ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead, Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church's glorious head: Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and

 → give you peace.
- C Amen.

479 Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living



- 1 Christ is ris en, Christ is liv-ing, Dry your tears, be un a-fraid! 2 If the Lord had nev-er ris-en, We'd have noth-ing to be-lieve.
- 3 Death has lost its old do-min-ion, Let the world re-joice and shout!



Death and dark-ness could not hold Him, Nor the tomb in which He lay. But His prom-ise can be trust-ed: "You will live, be-cause I live." Christ, the first-born of the liv-ing, Gives us life and leads us out.



Do not look a-mong the dead for One who lives for - ev - er - more; As we share the death of Ad-am, So in Christ we live a - gain; Let us thank our God, who caus - es Hope to spring up from the ground;



Tell the world that Christ is ris - en, Make it known He goes be - fore. Death has lost its sting and ter-ror, Christ the Lord has come to reign. Christ is ris - en, Christ is giv-ing Life e - ter - nal, life pro-found.

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Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White 10:30 a.m. – Gary Bartels



While standing during various parts of the Divine Service shows respect and honor given to our Lord and Savior during worship, it is not a requirement. If at any time you feel the need to take a seat, please feel free to do so.



Find Pastor Skelton's Bible Study based on First Samuel posted on facebook.com/holycrosshighlandsranch and click on videos to see the Bible Study and worship services.



KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on <u>KFUO.org</u> via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find

programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, begin studying 2 Peter on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear about 1 Kings 8-10 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite podcasts on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app!



Check out the Thank You note from Mary at Bethesda posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

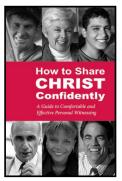
The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Sharing Christ Confidently

Are you...

anxious about sharing your faith?
afraid you aren't equipped to share your faith?
worried you might be rejected or ridiculed?
You're not alone!

We asked what your first thought that came to mind was when you heard the word "witness'. The response was varied and much as you might expect. What makes this task seem so intimidating? We are all called to be witnesses to the Gospel and to share Christ's good news of salvation:



"...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ..." (Romans 1:16)

"He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him" (John 1:7).

On Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 PM, we are kicking off a congregation wide effort to improve our witnessing abilities. We will be going through "How to Share Christ Confidently" in small a group setting over the course of several weeks. The 48 page booklet will be provided at no cost. Please watch for members of the Evangelism Board in early May at a sign-up table so we may get an idea of materials needed. We strongly encourage everyone to participate so that we can boldly share the hope that is in us!

The Evangelism Board, Lynne Rodefeld (President), Joshua Christian, Marie McQuarrie, and Becky White

Schedule

May 19: 5:30 p.m. Kick off with an ice cream social at church!

May 19 – June 30: 4 sessions (times, days, and locations determined by each group)

June 30: Final session, with potluck and wrap up at church.

Join us for fellowship while we learn how to share Christ with confidence!



A summer reading program that's all about Jesus.

It encourages kids to read all summer long, so they build vocabulary and comprehension skills while learning more about their Savior! CPH Reads runs from June 1 through August 13, 2021. Any book children read will earn them points, and if they log 1,000 points by August 13, they'll be entered in for a chance to win awesome prizes.

Get started in a few easy steps.

What you need to do:

- 1. Pick up a reading log from the table in the narthex.
- 2. Go to cph.org/reads with an adult to create an account.
- 3. Log any book they read between June 1 and August.
- 4. READ!

Read together. Pray together. Find hope together with Christ.





We have been working with this neighborhood group for a few years. Heart 2 Heart provides start-up goods for the homeless who are moving into their own housing. This includes Veterans, sheltered families and battered women, and young people transitioning from foster care. Other organizations find the housing and basic furniture, we provide the start-up needs.

The organization was founded by our neighbor, Linda Garrity, about 10 years ago. Caseworkers provide the names. ages, and needs of the families and a few of us "grandmas a grandpas" put together the orders for these families and lo them into the cars for deliveries.

Donations come in from our neighbors and from those who have heard about Heart 2 Heart through word of mouth. Additionally, we scour thrift stores and purchase some new items, especially toys for the kids. One organization provides homemade quilts!

Needed donations include lightly used bedding, towels, books, toys, kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, cups, mugs, glasses, silverware, coffeemakers (each Veteran gets one), plastic storage like Glad or Tupperware, baking dishes, spatulas, etc. We do not deal with food, furniture, or clothing. However, we do purchase outfits for newborns, as no baby should leave the hospital in hand-me-down clothing.

If you have something that you no longer need, you can bring your items to church and we will drop them off at Linda's. If you have any questions, please call me, Becky White, at 303-506-8417. Thank you.

Steve and Becky White – 303-979-5978

Holy Cross Men's Bible Study is exploring Luther's Large Catechism. They meet every other Saturday. You are welcome to join them at their next meeting on Saturday, May 15 at 8 a.m.

Petitions and Prayers: When we call upon God in prayer, we are to confess who we are: sinners who are undeserving of His mercy.



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, You are the Great Physician. You took our flesh upon Yourself: You know our weaknesses because You bore them on the cross. We pray that You would deliver those with illnesses and afflictions. Likewise, enable them to believe that Your grace is sufficient for them in all circumstances. Thank You that we can look to You for hope and healing. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Sonja Bowles Cancer
- Kevin Koessel (Karlee Shavlik's brother) cancer
- Harlan Kurtz (Lisa Oliver's father) recovering from infections
- Julie Ann Zamora

Prayer of intercession:

A Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son who became sin for us, satisfying Your justice. We praise You for Your wisdom in Your divine plan of salvation. We thank You for forsaking Your Son that You might not forsake us. We glorify You for the certain promise of eternal life and resurrection given in the empty tomb. As we wait for Jesus' return, mold our attitude to be like His. We look forward to the day when we will see You on Your throne with Your Son at Your right hand in glory. We pray in the name of Your Son's holy and blessed name. Amen.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life May 2, 2021

"We pray in our services for 'the race of man' not the races of man. There is only one race. All else are ethnic, national, cultural, or other differences. We've past histories to trouble us to be sure—like the Irish and the English, the Jew and the Christian, the Greek and the Ottoman Turk, and the slave and the slave owner—but there is no place from which a genuine reconciliation can emerge today, except in Christ. The goal is fellowship, brotherhood in Christ."

James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office	303-683-1300
Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Cen	ter303-683-1311
Fax	303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out

The Lutheran Hour

Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio

go to www.lhm.org and click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





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