

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R Amen

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

R we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

BENEDICTION

P 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.

R Amen

DISMISSAL

P Christ is risen, just as he said. Be at peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

R Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” (vs.1-3) HYMN NO. 765

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts,
Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and
the lathe:
be there at our labors,
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts,
Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts,
Lord, at the eve of the day.**

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953; Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

“The Church’s One Foundation”

P Creator God, you formed the earth and gave us dominion over it. We thank you for the rains earlier this week, and we pray that you will continue to show us how to be good caretakers of every corner of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P Father God, you call all people of the world your children. Raise up leaders who are just and merciful, made in your image. Guide all public servants and grant them wisdom in their work. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P Healing God, you come near to us when we are broken in mind, body, or spirit, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially those who we name in our hearts... Bring healing and wholeness to them. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P Abiding God, you remain with us always and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially our family and friends, and pray that their faith will continue to inspire and encourage us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

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

R Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

GATHERING

HYMN

"Jesus Loves Me!"

HYMN NO. 595

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

Refrain:

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

**Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. *Refrain***

**Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. *Refrain***

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

GREETING

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

R And also with you.

KYRIE (*Spoken*)

HYMNAL p. 147

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

R Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE "*Glory to God...*" **HYMNAL p. 148**

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

R Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **R And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R And also with you.

RESPONSE

OFFERING

The work of God continues, even when we can't gather in person. While the offering plate can't be passed around, there are still several ways to tithe:

- Mail your offering envelope to the church office
- Check out Zion's website for online donation option via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)
OR you can go directly to this link <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1367077>
- Set up direct bill pay at your personal bank

And always remember, there are many ways we can make offerings to God, such as prayer and acts of service.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P 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.

P Incarnate God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your hands and feet on earth, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving
Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed

R 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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.
R Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HYMNAL p. 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” (NRSV)

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Love Each Other”

Rev. Ron Windecker

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Myrtle Becker, Melva Chancellor-Burnham, Claribel Hannemann, Peggy Janssen, Leola Landis, Gary McVey, Bee Troxell, Evelyn Wells, Edith Wilderotter, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

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The Special Concern for May is the Fredericksburg Food Pantry and Hill Country Needs Council.

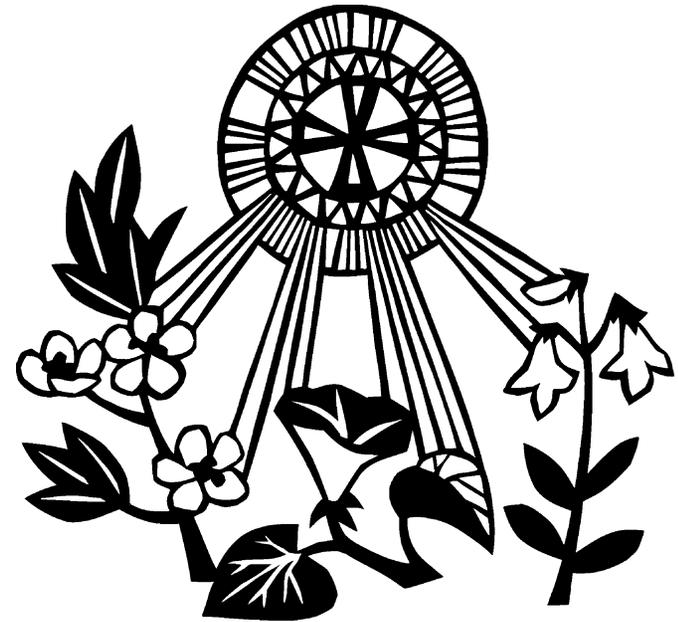
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To support our connection as the body of Christ and encourage the study of scripture, Pastor Ron and Pastor Lisa are continuing weekly devotions during this Easter season. New videos are available weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00am on Zion's YouTube channel. Paper copies will also be mailed with the Sunday bulletin. To access the videos, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "Zion Fredericksburg Texas." The search will take you to Zion's channel, and you can click on the devotion video.

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Thanks to God in remembrance of Glenn and Kathy Beyer's 55th Wedding Anniversary on May 18, 2020.

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Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$3,985, your Building Fund Contributions of \$165, your Food Pantry Contributions of \$465, your Needs Council Contributions of \$465, your Cemetery Fund Contributions of \$25 and your postage contributions of \$140 given this past week.

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We had 97 views of last Sunday's video on our YouTube channel.

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IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN IN THE MAIL BY SATURDAY.....PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH OFFICE PORCH FOR COPIES YOU CAN PICK UP.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

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Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2020

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30am

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30am

(go to www.youtube.com & search 'Zion Fredericksburg, TX')

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Senior Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Associate Pastor – Rev. Lisa Hoelscher; pastorlisah@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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