

May 10, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Lect A gospel John 14:1-14 - Homily based on 1 Peter text.
MOTHER'S DAY IN CANADA

Preparing for worship:

Good morning – welcome to worship,
I hope you are able to gather everyone in your household together this morning.
If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you
can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Perhaps print out
copies of this for everyone present. This Liturgy is from the Lutheran Book of
Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from
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**Ahead of time - think about your mother, grandmothers, aunts, female family
friends who you were/are close to. Remember – perhaps write a gratitude list-
of the things they taught you, or their character/personalities. If these
memories are hard ones to grasp or difficult ones to re-call, try to re-frame them
in a positive light.**

Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some
deep breaths

GATHERING TOGETHER

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

Hymn: 546 LBW When Morning Gilds the Skies (*note that the Lyrics of this
version differ from those in the LBW*).

The Lord be with you – and also with you

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. Give us patience to follow in the way
of his commandments. Give us love 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

THE WORD

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

HOMILY IS BASED ON THE TEXT FROM PETER

It must have been in one of the special Sunday cartoon strips that I saw it—because otherwise Bill Keane’s Family Circus cartoons were always in circles. I remember three frames. The first showed Billy (Jeffry?) in tears, running to find his mother. The second frame shows the same boy encountering his dad—tears were gone—“Oh! Hi, Dad.” The third frame, with Dad gone, shows the same son back in tears continuing in his search to find Mom. It’s true, isn’t it? There is no one else like Mom! No one else’s kiss can dispel those tears more quickly; no one else’s smile and hug can take away a problem’s sting better; no one else can put on that Band-Aid like she can; no one else can give comfort like Mom can.

Perhaps as you have reflected on your own mother or motherly personalities in your own life; you may have descriptive words like compassion, faithfulness, spiritual, unconditional love, provision, care, healing, adoption, comfort, and hospitality on your list. These are some of the qualities that mothers bring into our lives.

Many of you were nurtured into faith in your family homes. Your spiritual strength rests today on the corner stone of what you were taught growing up—spiritual milk vs2. For many of us that is Jesus Christ. Your own identity is strong and secure in your faith. You were/are fed spiritual food that sustains you secure in the hug of a higher being, GOD. ***You are the living stones of today.*** You are being sustained for the risks and challenges of a long life of faith.

We live in the real world, and the real world is in real peril these days. Included in our spiritual identities is a call to proclaim something of what we know of God to the world around us. This call is larger than we are. This does not mean we need to have the correct words. Actions speak louder than words these days! I appreciate hearing all the “good news” people worldwide are doing to help each other out. Most of us carry DNA that has been “inherited” and we are hardwired to sustain life.

A seminar leader wanted to make a point, so she took a wide mouthed jar and filled it with rocks. “Is the jar filled?”- She asked. “Yes!” came a reply. “Really” she

said. She poured smaller pebbles into the jar to fill the spaces in between the rocks. "Is it full now?" she asked. "Yes!" someone else replied. She filled the remaining spaces with sand. "Is it full now? She asked. Well the audience has caught on by now and said – "*probably not!*" The leader took a cup of water and poured it into the jar. "What lesson have we learned from this?" She asked. Someone eagerly spoke up; "no matter how full the jar is, there is always room for more?!" Yes, that is one way of looking at it . . .the lesson is to get everything into the jar, **you must always put the big things in first.**

To get everything out of our lives, the first biggest thing we could be putting in our daily jars is our own personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He is the stone the builders rejected- but he has become the cornerstone of our lives and he is the cornerstone we proclaim. This is enough to empower us for our journey ahead, no matter where that road takes us. AMEN

Hymn LBW 518 Beautiful Savior

Our Response

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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, incline your ear to us, **and 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, incline your ear to us, **and 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. Lord, incline your ear to us, **and hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We pray for all those affected by Covid -19. We hold up all the front line workers who are diligent and persistent in their workplaces for the sake of all of us. Lord, incline your ear to us, **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for all mothers, especially those with little children, that God give them wisdom, love, strength, and patience to fulfill their calling. That husbands, fathers, and children give them honor, love, and respect that their lives be surrounded with joy and happiness. Lord, incline your ear to us, **and hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, for newborns, 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, incline your ear to us, **and hear our prayer.**

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, incline your ear to us, **and 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn LBW 534 Now thank we all our God

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!