



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 7th May
Fifth Sunday of Easter



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Lord God,
you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will.
Lead us to love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, among the changes of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: John 14:6

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the father except through me."*

**Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the father except through me."**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Lord I lift your name on high

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

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CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.

Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

Jesus loves me

**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.***

**Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in:
*Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me;
yes, Jesus loves me: the Bible tells me so.***

**Jesus loves me, loves me still, though I'm very weak and ill;
from His shining throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie:
*Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me;
yes, Jesus loves me: the Bible tells me so.***

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

Anna Warner (1827-1915), alt.

PSALM 116:1-4,12-19

¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

² Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

Into your hands I commit my spirit.

¹⁵ My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit.

¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Into your hands I commit my spirit.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we love others.

[silence]

**Merciful Father,
you have reached out to all people
through your Son Jesus, who died for us all.
Encourage us to live as your chosen people
and give of ourselves to others.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60 The death of Stephen (NIVUK)

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

*After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.*

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10 God's chosen people, a royal priesthood (NIVUK)

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'^[b] ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,'^[c] ⁸ and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.'^[d] They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 Jesus the way to the Father (NIVUK)

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹⁴ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have

seen him.’ ⁸ Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ ⁹ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’ ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ 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 works themselves. ¹² 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. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Lord Jesus,
thank you for being the way to the Father for us.
Help us always to believe in you.
Amen.**

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Christ Be Our Light

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people, light for the world to see.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us Your living voice:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making Your kingdom come:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

Grace - CityAlight

**Your grace that leads this sinner home from death to life forever,
and sings the song of righteousness by blood and not by merit.**

**Your grace that reaches far and wide to every tribe and nation,
has called my heart to enter in the joy of Your salvation.**

**By grace, I am redeemed, by grace, I am restored.
And now I freely walk into the arms of Christ my Lord.**

**Your grace that I cannot explain not by my earthly wisdom:
The Prince of Life, without a stain was traded for this sinner.**

**By grace, I am redeemed, by grace, I am restored.
And now I freely walk into the arms of Christ my Lord.**

**Let praise rise up and overflow, my song resound forever.
For grace will see me welcomed home to walk beside my Saviour.**

**By grace, I am redeemed, by grace, I am restored.
And now I freely walk into the arms of Christ my Lord.**

**By grace, I am redeemed, by grace, I am restored.
And now I freely walk into the arms of Christ my Lord.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

*Thank you, eternal Father,
for setting us free through the sacrifice of your Son.
Help us, through your great love for us,
to love and serve one another
and all people.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.' Let us come to our heavenly Father with all our troubles and concerns, and pray for the church and the world.

Lord, be with your whole church on earth. Keep it faithful and let your message of forgiveness through Christ be heard and believed.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Be with The Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand and its leaders. We commend to you our Bishop, (*insert name*), our District Bishop, (*insert name*), and all our District Bishops. Uphold them in their office with true faith and a godly life. Guide the General Church Board, District Church Boards, and all commissions and committees that serve. Grant them wisdom and protection, and everything that is needed to do the work you have called them to do.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Bless our country, Australia, and help those in authority to strive for harmony, honesty and justice. Remember our King, Charles, our Prime Minister, *Anthony Albanese*, our Premier, *Annastacia Palaszczuk*, those in our local government, and all who maintain law and order.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Guide and bless our industry, education, arts, culture and leisure activities, mass media, and science and technology. Equip them well and grant that your will would be done through their work.

Help us to care for the land and protect its fragile environment, so that the blessings you give can be passed on to future generations.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Protect our nation from hatred and violence, from arrogance, discord and confusion, and from all evil. Bring unity among the different peoples of our land: the Indigenous and the non-Indigenous people; those born here and those from overseas; the rich and the poor. Be with the unemployed and the overworked, the sick and the aged, the poor, the needy and the lonely, and give all those in need the daily bread they need.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Thank you, Father, that you hear us and care for us in all our needs. Open our eyes that we may see you in your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May God give you peace in your heart
and may he fill you with trust in Jesus.*

**May God give you peace in your heart
and may he fill you with trust in Jesus.**

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace.

You are the chosen race, God's own holy people.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Now thank we all our God

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us.
Lord, keep us in Your grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Martin Rinckart 1586-1649 Tr Catherine Winkworth (1858), alt.

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Acts 7:55-60

LHS

- 99 Welcome, Thou Victor in the strife* G6
- 158 Jesus, lover of my soul G4
- 632 Once in Royal David's city
- 763 Now is eternal life (*alt tune* 176, G9)
- 767 This joyful Eastertide G7
- 770 Yours is the glory G6

See also below the 'Lord, have mercy' based on LH 82 Pt 1

AT

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Second reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

LHS

- 188 Built on a rock the Church doth stand* G4
- 191 The Church's one foundation G4
- 248 Christ is made the sure foundation G6
- 249 Christ is our cornerstone
- 392 How firm a foundation G6
- 494 Jerusalem the golden G6
- 805 We are heirs of the Father GS
- 831 O baptised people, one and all G3

AT

- 1 Lord of our days
- 12 We are heirs of the Father
- 119 Come and praise him, royal priesthood
- 140 The building block
- 144 No longer strangers
- 213 I go to the Rock of my salvation
- 313 Christ, be our light
- 315 Drawn to the light

404 Let nothing trouble you

446 Mercy

Gospel: John 14:1-14

LHS

- 103 I know that my Redeemer lives* G3
- 111 Hail the day that sees Him rise G5
- 147 O Morning Star so bright and fair* G3
- 161 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds G5
- 175 Thou art the way* G6
- 176 We come, O Christ, to Thee G9
- 297 Thine forever, God of love G6
- 355 May we thy precepts, Lord, fulfil* G3
- 361 Let us ever walk with Jesus* G5
- 424 Prayer is the soul's sincere desire* G5
- 479 Jesus, my Redeemer lives* G5
- 761 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing G3
- 783 Christ is the world's light
- 786 In faith and hope and love GS

AT

- 23 The blind man
- 199 I know where I'm going
- 239 Listen to him
- 250 Glorify your name
- 314 We believe you are the way
- 329 This kingdom
- 363 Jesus is greater
- 404 Let nothing trouble you
- 505 Whatever you do