

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020



## Welcome, Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together, **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.

## I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

### Verse 1

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my everlasting head!

### Verse 2

He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save; he live exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

### Verse 3

He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye; he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

### Verse 4

He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears; he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

## Special Children's Message "a la Zoom"!

### First Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like 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. <sup>6</sup>For 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." <sup>7</sup>To 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," <sup>8</sup>and "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. <sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

## **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: <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus 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?’ <sup>10</sup>Do 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. <sup>11</sup>Believe 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. <sup>12</sup>Very 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. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon – Pastor Paul**

### **Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude (w/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.**

### **Final Blessing & Dismissal**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **Open Up the Heavens**

**Verse 1:** We've waited for this day. We're gathered in Your Name, calling out to You. Your glory like a fire, awakening desire, will burn our hearts with truth.

**Pre-Chorus:** You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing.

**Chorus:** Open up the heavens. We want to see You. Open up the floodgates, a mighty river, flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.

**Verse 2:** Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky. Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now. Lord unveil our eyes.

*(see next page)*

**Pre-Chorus:** You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing.

**Chorus:** Open up the heavens. We want to see You. Open up the floodgates, a mighty river, flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise. (Repeat)

**Bridge:** Show us, show us Your glory. Show us show us, Your power. Show us, show us Your glory Lord. (Repeat)

**Chorus:** Open up the heavens. We want to see You. Open up the floodgates, a mighty river, flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise. (Repeat)

**Special Send-off** (Thanks be to Moms!)

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See our Virtual Bulletin below!



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*May, 2020*

**The May issue of the STAR is ready.** Copies are available in the “Shooting Star Box” outside the church entryway. Also check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With **Gov. Whitmer’s stay-at-home order** now extended through May 28<sup>th</sup> and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different “phases” of safety regarding gatherings, etc, Bethlehem is working on plans to start some sort of gatherings and/or worship sometime in June. Details will be sent out as we get closer, and we give thanks always for your support, understanding and prayers.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) is going virtual!!!** Because of all the COVID-19 precautions and changes, BLC joins many other churches in altering our VBS plans. We may still be looking for volunteers in some areas, so let Annie know if you are interested in helping out this summer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Annie Slaubaugh at [annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org)

**Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara)** pray that you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in person and look forward to being able to worship and fellowship together. Don’t forget to check out the BLC blog <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>.



**Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**The Annual Chili Cook Off** has been postponed to a later date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

**BLC has successfully conducted several important staff and committee gatherings and meetings on a web application called ZOOM (usable on almost ANY device), so we are trying it out with 2 new venues: brief Fellowship time after worship, and a mid-week Bible Study!**

**Fellowship Time will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 10:45am on Sundays.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.



To login to our Zoom ministry sessions, you will need to type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided AND **you may need to have the ZOOM app installed on your smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac.** You can also "join the meeting" on the website [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

**On Wednesday, April 22nd, we launched our first attempt at "Zoom Bible Study."** After that first week, we extended that bible study duration to about an hour and 15 minutes, **gathering via Zoom each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** Pastor Paul and Annie will co-lead this study. Our subject matter will be "Luke and Acts ToGather" and whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet... which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about. *Please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.* In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Just remember to install the Zoom software on your PC, Mac, table or smart phone before you visit the links with ID and Password provided. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be mailed out the day before the Bible Study. Contact Pastor Paul if you would like login info sent to you.