

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

May 3, 2020 worship

Readings not included in worship today are for the 5th Sunday of Easter.

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

This keeps our 1 Peter readings in the order they were written.

Next Sunday we will return to the 4th Sunday of Easter passages.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

MINISTRY OF ZION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Jesus, We Are Gathered: Jesu, tawa pano* (ELW 529)



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath - ered,



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri

Music: JESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyiri

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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.”

⁷To 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,”

⁸and

“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.

⁹But 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.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Build Us Up, Lord* (ELW 670)

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow-ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king-dom; we fol-low in
 faith what's be-gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your
 word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
 Music: BUILD US UP, Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna
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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.

Build us up, O 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 missionaries, new congregations, and congregations who are struggling and discerning their path forward.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for leaders of nations, states, and communities who must make difficult decisions in this time of pandemic. Grant them wisdom to seek the good of all. Bless the efforts of scientists and physicians as they seek treatment and a vaccine. Bring healing to all who are afflicted and comfort to those who mourn the loss of those they love.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of hope, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We pray especially for our elders and homebound members who are separated from their loved ones, for families in distress, and for those whose work has intensified. Surround them with your comfort so they may rest in your grace.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. May their faith serve as an added foundation to ours, built on the cornerstone of Christ. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to God for every good gift.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Jesus, our savior and friend, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and truly present to us here and now. Since we cannot now receive you in the bread and wine, we remember and trust your words, “This is my body; this is my blood—given for you.” We love you and ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you. Keep all of us strong in faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

SENDING SONG *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* (ELW 774)



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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The Prayer for Spiritual Communion was written by Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787) a Catholic Bishop who wrote the popular Lenten Devotional “The Way of the Cross”. Pr Lynne Ogren rewrote it from an individual to a corporate prayer.

Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA
PO Box 147 604 W. Evelyn St.
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-5082

zionelca@midrivers.com

www.zionlewisownelca.com