



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life



I am
the Way,
the Truth
and the
Life

John 14:6

MAY 10, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

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Prayer Before Worship: *O living Savior, you are the way, the truth, and the life. In these times of confusion and uncertainty, lead me to trust and follow you. Amen.*

Opening Hymn: "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" CW # 221

OPENING OF SERVICE

221

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW page 38

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON - *Acts 17:1-12*

When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,” he said. ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” ⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. ¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 33

{Refrain}

The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;*
It is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the Word of the LORD is right and true;*
He is faithful in all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,*
Their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

For he spoke, and it came to be;*
He commanded, and it stood firm.

{Refrain}

The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

The Lord foils the plans of the nations;*
He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,*
The purposes of his heart through all generations.

The LORD loves righteousness and justice;*
The earth is full of his unfailing love.

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

{Refrain}

The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house 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.” 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 capstone,” ⁸ and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” 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, a people belonging to God, 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)

Alleluia Response (sung)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL - John 14:1-12

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. 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 knew me, you would know 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 are not just my own. 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 miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

The Holy Bible : New International Version. 1996, c1984 . Zondervan: Grand Rapids

Hymn: “I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus” CW # 446

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe 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, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.**

From there 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.**

Offering: Please mail in your offering to the church office as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all. When he had offered the one sacrifice for sins, you raised him to glory. Grant us a sure faith in him that we also may possess the blessed hope of eternal life. For the multitude of your mercies, we thank you, and pray that we may ever be mindful that every good and perfect gift is from above.

We thank you for the revelation of your divine truth in Jesus Christ. Pour your Spirit upon us that he may guide us into all truth. We thank you for the gift of your Church and the fellowship of believers. Keep us united in the bond of peace, shower your blessings upon us, protect us from all our enemies, and prosper all our labors. Open our minds to see the work you laid before us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations.

We thank you for the gift of our homes. Let your Spirit dwell in each house that love and tranquillity, joy and consolation, strength and virtue may reign in undiminished glory. For the gifts of our daily bread and all things needful for the wants and support of this present life, we give you thanks.

For your people, we pray, O Lord. Heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and give comfort to the weary. Show them the power and strength of your unfailing love.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Hear our prayers and grant that finally we may be received into everlasting communion with you and your only Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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.**

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
 Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.

 The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: "Jesus Savior Pilot Me" – CW # 433

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's tem -
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst hush the
 3 When at last I near the shore And the fear - ful



pes - tuous sea; Un - known waves be - fore me roll,
 o - cean wild. Bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy will
 break - ers roar 'Twixt me and the peace - ful rest,



Hid - ing rock and treach-'rous shoal. Chart and com - pass
 When thou say'st to them, "Be still!" Won-drous Sov - 'reign
 Then, while lean - ing on thy breast, May I hear thee



come from thee: Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 say to me, "Fear not! I will pi - lot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-88, abr.

Tune: PILOT (77 77 77) John E. Gould, 1822-75.

Announcements - View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.

Circuit Pastors to Meet Wednesday

Circuit Pastors from across the Minnesota District are scheduled to meet this week to discuss the possible reopening of churches so that in-person worship may resume safely and in good order. The pastors along with the District president will discuss certain guidelines and recommendations that they will plan to pass on to the congregations within our district. We pray that God would bless their discussions as they seek to guide and counsel the pastors and congregations throughout Minnesota, and parts of Iowa and Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

St. Matthew's Danube

PO Box 67

Danube, MN 56230

St. John's Renville

209 Bryant Ave NE

PO Box 416

Renville, MN 56284

St. Matthew Flora Twp.

36313 Kenwood Ave

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

(temporary mailing address)

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon.

If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 320-826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

Important Notice Concerning Worship and Bible Class

Worship Services at all of our churches have been suspended until further notice due to heightened health concerns. With the restriction on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 outbreak we will be making use of our online streaming services as our primary way to meet. For important announcements and other details about how to stay connected to your local congregation and to God's Word visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

Please make use of local radio, television, and online ministries as we are currently unable to gather in our local congregations. **Television:**

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit timeofgrace.org to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

Radio:

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources:

- wels.net - Daily devotions, (*new*) family devotions, and other bible study tools, updates and resources at our Synod's website. May God bless us as we walk together.
- timeofgrace.org - on demand worship services, blogs, daily devotions, podcasts and bible study materials available
- nph.net - order books, bible study and devotional materials, hymnals, Bibles, catechisms, and much more from the publication arm of our synod.
- forwardinchrist.net - WELS magazine now has an online presence. Stay connected with God's Word and your church body with news, updates, podcasts, videos, and more.

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

Please Call, Email, or Text for Pastoral Support

During this time of being unable to gather at our worship facilities we want to remind you that you can reach out to Pastor Kuschel for pastoral support. Be assured that Pastor Kuschel is praying for you and that he would very much welcome your call and a chance to talk to you and pray with you over the phone. Remember that we are his Church and God cares for his children wherever you are. *The LORD watches over you... He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. - Psalm 121*

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs Learning Center as our next preschool teacher. We give thanks to God for the way that he care for his Church as he provides pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others to carry out the gospel ministry. May God bless Louisa in this time of transition and may He bring her safely to our community.

Renville County COVID-19 Newsletter

Renville County has been producing a COVID-19 Newsletter. Please follow the link to keep up to date with tips, suggestions, and news from the county. <https://www.renvillecountymn.com/newslist.php>