

## **SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP**

### **MAY 12, 2024**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of resurrection, yours is the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ, yet we are so often surrounded by pain, illness, and death. Stir up in us the hope of salvation, and the strong conviction that we will overcome the trials of this life and live in your tender, loving presence forevermore. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-26,51-57**

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **MARK 12: 26-27A**

<sup>26</sup> “And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? <sup>27</sup> He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER DICK WERP**

### **What does it take to be convinced that Jesus was resurrected?**

As I read this lesson today, I was struck by the notion of what I believe Paul is trying to convey. As we read verses 3-7, what do you hear? What crosses your mind?

*<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

What I hear is the evidence and documentation of actual witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lots of people actually saw and interacted with him. How can anyone reject the notion of God and Jesus Christ when we have documentation like this? And yet, we all know people who reject the idea the Jesus existed much less was raised from the dead. In some ways we live in a world of Doubting Thomases. A world where so many believe that faith and religion are all a myth. We even read and hear of people who deny the Holocaust with all the documentation that exists with even that relatively recent event. **“If I can’t see it or touch it, then I can’t believe it.”**

Paul answers that question with evidence for the doubters. How can we not proclaim that our Savior lives in the face of such documentation? How can we not have faith and hope in the resurrection of our Lord and what that means for us?

We ended the gospel lesson last week with <sup>13</sup> *And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.* Here is where faith and hope come in. When all else is gone, when we have nothing left, we know that faith and hope abide, they stay with us as does our God’s love. Paul gives us the documentation, how can we do anything less than celebrate our God and Savior in our faith, our hope and sharing our Love as a demonstration of that faith. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** | RISEN <https://youtu.be/2V2BAPVZCUs?si=6S6DH0DSB27-XSAE>

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence.)*

Risen God, through the power of your act of love on the cross and your subsequent resurrection, you shattered the power of death and opened to us the way of everlasting life. Make us confident in this promise, that we might live and work fearlessly to bring about your reign in the here and now. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the redemption of all that you have made, and trust that the promise of eternal life extends to this beautiful earth upon which we stand. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Renew hope in the face of discouragement, that our leaders might persist in the frustrating work of addressing inequity, so that all might have life and have it abundantly. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort all who grieve the loss of loved ones, the loss of health, or any other loss with the promise of healing through the resurrection, especially Rick, Dorothy, Lori, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift up through our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We uplift every community throughout the world where death is a harsh daily reality due to war, famine, disease, natural disasters, and other factors. Strengthen all people in the hope that death will not have the last word and spur us to action to address

these pressing issues so that your beloved children might live long, healthy lives in this world. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. Fill the hearts of those providing help and transport for these children with compassion and stir their hearts to protect and keep them safe. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, our help in every trouble, we pray for peace in the Holy Land. Protect those traumatized by ongoing violence. Release people held hostage; provide food, water, fuel, and supplies for all in need; sustain medical personnel; tend to those who are wounded; and comfort all who grieve. Move the hearts of humanity and its leaders into the way of peace. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We celebrate and pray for mothers everywhere: For those who are mothers and those who lovingly serve in that role; for those who long to give birth and those who long to be wrapped in the arms of a mother who has left their earthly presence. Help us to live in gratitude and hope, trusting that because of Christ Jesus, we will once again see them in the flesh in the resurrection. Keep us strong in our gratitude and our hope each day. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

**SENDING BENEDICTION** | BENEDICTION — AS YOU GO

[https://youtu.be/NWiv\\_GrvCG8?si=GTNFXBASEFVRR\\_PH](https://youtu.be/NWiv_GrvCG8?si=GTNFXBASEFVRR_PH)

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 12 – MAY 19, 2024**

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>– Death Swallowed in Life**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee and Conversation immediately following Worship  
Happy Mother's Day!



**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m. – Amazing Grace Book Study by Zoom

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. – Friday Perspectives

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>– Pentecost: Gifts of the Spirit**

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee and Conversation immediately following Worship

**MAY  
BIRTHDAYS**

HELEN T. 5/13  
SALLY E. 5/16  
DONNA S. 5/26  
TERRY S. 5/27

**DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 12, 2024**

**Monday, May 13, 2024 – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18   Factions in the Corinthian Church**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-corinthians-110-18-factions-in-the-corinthian-church2024>

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – Acts 8:4-25   Philip Preaches in Samaria**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-84-25-philip-preaches-in-samaria2024>

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – Acts 8:26-40   Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-826-40-philip-and-the-ethiopian-eunuch2024>

**Thursday, May 16, 2024 – Acts 9:1-19a   The Conversion of Saul**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-91-19a-the-conversion-of-saul2024>

**Friday, May 17, 2024 – Acts 9:19b-22   Saul Preaches in Damascus**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-919b-22-saul-preaches-in-damascus2024>

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 – Acts 9:23-31   Saul in Jerusalem**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-923-31-saul-in-jerusalem2024>

**Sunday, May 19, 2024 – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13   Faith, Hope and Love**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-corinthians-131-13-faith-hope-and-love2024>

