The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic St Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Prelude

Jesus Christ Our Saviour Who turned God's Wrath from Us, J.S. Bach

Welcome

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!** Let us praise our God

who has given us life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Let us rejoice, then, even in our distress. We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

O God, you have claimed us as your own and called us from our darkness into the light of your day.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ηγμν

- Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise? Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Maker all your days.
- Praise God for the grace and favour shown our forebears in distress. God is still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless; Alleluia, alleluia, sing our Maker's faithfulness.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (381)

- Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame; gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same. Alleluia, alleluia all within me, praise God's name.
- 4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish; blows the wind and it is gone; but, while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on: Alleluia, alleluia praise the high eternal one.
- 5. Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face; sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace.

CENTRING STILLNESS

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Risen Christ, give us grace to love one another, to search for truth and to walk in the ways of justice and peace, so that we may abide in the Father's love always. Amen.

Propers Working Group (2016)

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

PSALM 31. 1-5, 15-16

(Jackie Hiebert,

with 'Dark Island', Scottish trad., played by Dorothy Cook, harp)

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;

make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name,

lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,

for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

RESPONSORY

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead,

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound

and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep,

but we shall be changed. Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

GOSPEL

John 14. 1-14

The Good News of Jesus according to John:

¹ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ 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"? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Responding to the Word

Sermon

Music Intermezzo in A Opus 118 Nr. 2, Johannes Brahms (Pamela Whiston)

Affirming our Faith

The Apostles Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, (+) the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY

(Sean Steele)

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity, responding:

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Jesus, Lord of Life,
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in your mercy, hear us.

[please pause for a moment before each prayer]

... Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. [*pause*]

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

•••

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry,

and nourish us all with your word.

We pray especially for all who are facing intensified hardship during the current coronavirus pandemic. We pray for agencies and workers who are striving to end poverty in our city, nation and world. Especially we pray for those working to care for the homeless and to provide services to those in Topaz Park and along the Pandora Corridor. We also give thanks for all those who nourish us in our life's journeyespecially for our mothers and for all the women whose care for us has shaped us for good.

Jesus, Lord of life, *in your mercy, hear us.*

•••

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,

be with us and all who follow you in the way.

We pray for Ansley, our diocesan administrator; for Melissa our Metropolitan, and for Linda our Primate. We pray for the community of St. George at Kingcome Inlet, Wakeman, Hopetown & Gillford Island. We also pray for the Diocese of Kootenay and Bishop Lynne McNaughton, and our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and their national Bishop Susan Johnson, and the Bishop of the BC Synod, Greg Mohr.

Fill us with your abundant life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

•••

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,

recover the straggler,

bind up the injured,

strengthen the sick

and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

We continue to pray for front-line workers in the current health emergency. We give thanks for signs that our communities are making progress in overcoming the threat, and we pray for patience and attentiveness as we continue to protect one another to the best of our abilities. And we bring before you whose whom we know, who are in particular need of healing and comfort... [silence]

Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

•••

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,

we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you.

Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life, *in your mercy, hear us.*

•••

God of life, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life, so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. *Amen.*

Rejoicing in God's new creation and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

AFFIRMATION

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. *Amen.*

Postlude

Ave Maria, Bach/Gounod



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