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# Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

5625 Franklin Avenue – Des Moines, IA 50310

Web: [www.molcs.org](http://www.molcs.org)

Email: [school.office@molcs.org](mailto:school.office@molcs.org)

Church: (515) 277-8349

fax: (515) 274-2723

School: (515)277-0247

Mark Kleckner, Pastor

Maria Regalado, Secretary

Cory Emily, Principal

Jim Behrens, Organist

Anita Behrens, Pianist

Evan Rains, Drums

Aaron Powell, Director of  
Worship & Music Ministries

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

God's Gift Service T May 10, 2020

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### God Gathers Us in His Name

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

### Call to Worship:

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

LSB # 903:1-2,4

### God's Gift of Forgiveness

*As God gathers us in worship today the only thing we are able to give Him is our sins,  
and out of undeserved love for us God gives us forgiveness.*

*King David wrote in the Psalms: “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’  
— and You, [O God,] forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

*Psalms 32:5b NIV*

P Do you confess to Almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner who has sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed and therefore justly deserve His present and eternal punishment? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has lived a holy life, satisfying all the demands of God's holy Law for you, and died, shedding His blood for you upon the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you ask God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of His beloved Son Jesus, to be gracious and merciful to you? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P I have great Good News! Through His holy life and innocent death on the cross, Jesus has satisfied the holy demands of God's Law and has earned forgiveness and eternal life for us. He desires that this gift be delivered to all people. For He told His disciples on Easter evening, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. ... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

*John 20:21,23 NIV*

P Therefore, in the stead and by this command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and as the called and ordained servant of the Word in this place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P You are forgiven! You are set free! You are dearly loved children of God! Together you and I can now raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God for His tremendous grace. We can bring Him our fears and hopes, our needs and prayers, with all boldness and confidence as dear children do to their dear Father. C Amen.

# Our Song of Praise in Response to God's Forgiveness:

"Before the Throne of God Above"

LSB # 574

## God's Gift of His Word

*By ourselves we are spiritually dead.*

*By our own efforts we are unable to create or sustain a relationship with God.*

*However, out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive.*

*He creates and sustains a relationship with us by way of His Word, the Word of Jesus:*

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,  
through the living and enduring word of God."*

— 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

### First Reading:

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

ESV

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]*

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ...

And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. ... You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But [Stephen,] full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Reading:**

1 Peter 2:2-10

ESV

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter writes:]*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame” [Isaiah 28:16]. So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone” [Psalm 118:22], and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense” [Isaiah 8:14]. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading:**

John 14:1-14

ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John writes:]*

*[In the Upper Room, on the night before He was betrayed, Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with His disciples. After Judas had left, Jesus said to the remaining disciples:]* “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day:	“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”	LSB # 646:1-3
Sermon:	“You Are... So That...”	1 Peter 2:9-10
Hymn of Response:	“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”	LSB # 646:4

## Our Offerings in Response to God’s Word

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,  
so that you through His poverty might become rich. ...*

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

– 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15 NIV

*You are encouraged to continue regularly giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord either online at [www.molcs.org/church](http://www.molcs.org/church) or by mailing them to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines IA 50310 or bringing them to one of our drive through Communion services.*

*We thank God for your ongoing generosity in supporting the Lord’s work during this challenging time.*

A Creedal Song: “This I Believe” *by Ben Fielding & Matt Crocker*  
The Creed

## Our Prayers in Response to God’s Word

The following people or matters are being lifted up before the Lord:

- The CoViD-19 pandemic, including its removal, the safety and health of those not yet infected with the coronavirus, especially frontline health workers like Linda Light’s niece, a nurse at St. Luke’s in Cedar Rapids; the healing of those who have CoViD-19, including Jose and a worker at the Genesis Care Center where Dale Curtice’s mother resides; and granting comfort, peace, and the certain hope and joy of the resurrection to come when Jesus returns to those who have lost loved ones to the disease.
- The provision of help and aid to all whose lives have been upended by the restrictions imposed in the pandemic, including the provision of employment to those who have been laid off or furloughed during this time.
- Healing for all those with illnesses and injuries other than CoViD-19: Ian Thompson; Dale Foltman (Donna’s husband); Joan Koch’s brother, Bill, suffering with cancer; John Light’s girlfriend who has entered a nursing home with numerous health issues; Dale Curtice; David West; Joan Erickson; Debbie Holseid; Gretchen Versteeg; Michael Sturgeon; Doug Burke; Pat Davison; & Kathryn Sprecher.
- The Lord’s blessings upon those partaking of His Body and Blood during our drive through Communion on Sunday, May 10, at 9:00 am.
- Thanksgiving for Rev. Bob Zirkelbach and his years of service as Mt. Olive’s business manager and for Rene Shepard, a member of our school community, who will be the new MtO business manager.
- The members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community, including Rachael, Jerry, Urban, & Lydia Schwaller; Brenda, Reggie, Dawson, Dayton, & Dalton Schoen; Beverly, Donald, Jordan (grandson) Thompson; Rene (MtO staff), Scott, Katherine, & Matthew Shepard; Noemi, Lincon Sr., Joash, Lincon Jr., & Lizzie.
- Our MtO teachers and students as they finish out the current academic year online on May 15.
- For Jesus’ work throughout the world, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins delivered through God’s Means of Grace.
- JoAnn Roiger and her family as they grieve the unexpected death of her husband, Loren, whom the Lord has taken to Himself.

*The prayers, silent or spoken, will be prayed now. Each prayer will end with:*

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your loving hands, dear Lord, we place everyone and everything for which we've prayed.  
We trust You to answer our prayers according to Your mercy in the way that is best for us.  
We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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.

### Collect Prayer of the Day

P We join in the Collect Prayer of the Day:

C O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what  
You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this  
world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Final Prayer

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, grant  
that our lips which have here sung Your praise may now glorify You in the world;  
that our ears which have heard the voice of our Shepherd through Your Word  
may now be closed to the clamorous voice of Satan and the world;  
that our eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope;  
that our tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth; and  
that we may be fully restored to newness of life  
through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C Amen.

### Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give T you His peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

*LSB # 465:1,3-4*

### Announcements and Postlude

**As you leave His Service today,**

*God wants you to be assured that ALL your sins have been forgiven  
and that He has declared you to be His holy, beloved child,  
an heir of an eternal, never-ending relationship with Him.*