



Easter

OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Sunday, May 10, 2020



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027  
425-392-4169

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *I Was Glad*—Text: Psalm 122: 1; Music: Scott Hafso Marc Montague  
*I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”*

#### PROCLAMATION

PM: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

#### WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

#### GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Baninyeti Bayawe* — Cameroon tune, arr. Patrick Matsikenyiri Quartet  
*Hallelujah! Let us praise the Lord our God. Hallelujah! Amen*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Almighty God,

**C: 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.

#### FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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

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

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.      C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### *A Satisfying Separation*

Pastor Jim Kruse

“Hey, the line forms back there,” the man said in a matter-of-fact, straightforward, non-threatening voice. It was my shopping day, a couple of weeks ago. Since we are all supposed to stay home, except for the most essential trips, I try to push all my errands these days all to the same day of the week. Home Depot was my first stop. I needed some light bulbs that had burned out recently, and a couple of boxes so that I could ship my niece’s clothing to her in California. Libby was only one-and-a-half quarters into her freshman year at Western Washington University when they shut down the campus. She flew home quickly in February, thinking she would be back in a month or so. Arlys and I volunteered to clean out her dorm room for her in Bellingham when they called off the rest of the school year. I had just reached the checkout counters when I heard the voice.

I turned around slowly as to give the impression that I did not know if he was speaking to me or if he was speaking to someone else. And since he was looking straight at me, and since I needed a couple of seconds to assess the situation, I feigned a hearing issue. “What’s that?” I said.

“The line forms behind me,” he said again, with no particular sense of irritation in his demeanor. “Follow the tape on the floor!” Sure enough, he was standing in such a way so that the very front tips of his shoes were barely touching a short strip of blue masking tape across the floor. And a couple of giant steps behind him was another man who was standing behind another strip of tape. More strips of tape continued down the aisle unoccupied.

I looked down at my feet, and there was no strip of masking tape on the floor anywhere near me. My mind finally caught up with my social situation. I had cut into the checkout line and didn’t even know it. How embarrassing for me. “Oh,” I said, “I’m sorry. I didn’t

realize.” And I sheepishly retreated behind the third strip of blue masking tape.

This scenario was repeated several more times as I completed my one day out, unsheltered, into the dangerous new world. I tried to enter the directly through the front doors of the Redmond Costco and was redirected to a serpentine queuing line hidden behind all the shopping carts. I was reprimanded for going the wrong way down the cereal aisle at QFC. And then, as I was checking out the groceries, in a reversal of decades-long training in environmental consciousness, I was told that I could not use my own canvas bags. I had to use the thin plastic ones that the store provided.

I never thought I would be so happy to return to the shelter of my government-imposed seclusion. If you have not been outside your home for the last seven weeks or so, you are in for a big surprise when they unlock the front doors and let you go. It truly is a whole new world.

More and more, little by little, we are being separated, one from the other, in ways we never imagined, and to a degree that human beings were never supposed to endure. Most of the separation can fairly be described as inconvenient. We don and doff cloth masks as we go about our business. Plexiglass barriers go up, separating clerks of all types from the public they serve. If you can reach out and touch another person who does not sleep in your house and wash themselves in your shower, you are too close. Separate from them. Back off!

But there are other separations that are much more intrusive and difficult to accept. Many people are sheltering in total isolation, no one to talk to, no one to check on them, unfamiliar with the modern technologies of communication that keep the rest of us connected. Others live in communities of care where food and necessities are brought to them, but visiting is not allowed, inside or outside of the facility. And people are dying without being surrounded by loved ones to hold their hands or whisper in their ears.

We are being conned. This is not “social distancing,” this is “anti-social distancing.” And sometimes it is more than we can bear.

More and more, little by little, we understand the fear that has taken hold of the disciples in the Gospel for today, when Jesus talks to them about the separation that is going to come. Facing his own death, Jesus turns to them and says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, don’t you? Well then, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many dwelling place. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you.” Jesus knows that, of all things that he and his disciples will experience in the next few days and weeks, the most painful will be the irreversible separation that will come at the end of it all.

There is a fundamental problem that comes with being a human being. And the problem is this, if we ever hope to grow and thrive and to enjoy all the joys that this life can bring, then we are going to have to get close to other human beings. Sometimes those other human beings are just there, serving us food in restaurants, or taking our financial transactions in stores, or just walking by us, unknown and unaffected. Other times we are part of a crowd, enjoying moment in life like games and parties that just don’t work right unless there are lots of people squeezed in close together. The more the merrier. But it is the really close relationships, like the ones between parents and their children, that have the greatest potential to bring us profound joy.

But the problem comes with the fact that at some point, all of these relationships will end. Eventually we will have to let go of every one of them. And the closer you get to another human being, the greater the pain when you are separated from them. That is the truth that is behind the words of this Gospel lesson. Most of us know in our hearts that we will have to be separated from those we love. But most of us want that to be a gentle separation, one that is not so hard on our fragile spirits. Our current situation is much too harsh and much too abrupt to pass us by unaffected.

When Jesus tells the disciples that he will be leaving them, he touches on a deep need that we all have to hold on to someone, or something, we can count on. Not only are they unsure of where they are going, but they begin to even question where they have been. Two the disciples, first Thomas, and then Philip, cry out in pain. Maybe this moment was the moment Thomas was remembering later when he lost out on meeting the resurrected Jesus, as we heard about in the Gospel a few weeks ago. “But Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas says. “How can we follow?” And Philip says, “Lord, show us the Father then we will be satisfied.”

“Satisfied!” Jesus thinks to himself, as he loses his patience with Philip, “Was it not enough that I have been with you every day of your lives for the last few years, showing you the way I am going, telling you how to follow? Was it not enough that my presence in your lives is the most real, the most vivid, the clearest picture of God you will ever get?”

In the hours before his death, Jesus understood that the way his life was going would turn the lives of his followers and friends’ upside down. So, Jesus invites Thomas and Philip, along with the rest of us, to just keep on watching him as he prepares to go to the Father. Keep on watching as he suffers and dies on the cross. Keep on watching as he is raised to a new life from the grave. Keep on watching as he appears to them out of nowhere in their stress and daily living with resurrection. By doing that, Jesus gives us a view of the Father. Jesus gives us a way to know God and a way to live, trusting in God’s basic goodness.

We need to remember that whatever is good about life, whatever makes it sweet, whatever is worthy of our gratitude and praise is a gift from God. But it is not God. Yes, it is part of the gracious nature of God, part of God’s desire to fill our lives with good things. But it is not God.

Mothers and Fathers: the children that you are so carefully loving and raising are precious gifts from God. But your children are not God. God is God.

And you children: Your mothers and fathers are important gifts from God to protect, and guide, and nurture you to adulthood. But your parents are not God. God alone is God.

Your home, your job, your friends and spouse, the beauty of the day, the importance of place and roots—these are special things in life, they are meaningful, they are gifts from God. But your mansion in this world is not your God. That is being prepared for you elsewhere. Don’t cling! Don’t fight to keep what is not yours to keep! Don’t make the gift equal to the giver! Because when we do that, we lose sight of the one who has the power to give us something new, something better, something more precious, something fresh every day.

Faced with the burden of what has been lost in our lives today, it is not easy to trust that things will be OK. But Jesus' invitation is to do just that. To believe. To trust. For they are more than just fleeting moments when life is good. They are the moments of assurance that we are permanently connected to the gracious activity of God. In the end, they are the only moments that can make our daily separations satisfying.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

#### *You Are the Way*

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.; Tune: Dundee; *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;  
All those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.

You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu'ring arm;  
And those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

### **OFFERING**

We invite you to take a moment to offer thanksgiving to God for all the blessings of life, and remember your financial support that helps OSLC meet its ongoing ministry obligations. To request pre-printed mail-in contribution envelopes, or information about contributing electronically, please refer to the email that accompanied this bulletin under "Giving."

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

PM: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have raised us to new life in Christ,  
give us glad and generous hearts,  
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

+ 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.

*[A brief silence.]*



**God of Resurrection, you are our source of life and hope.**

+ Build us up, mothering God. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment.

+ Nurturing God, we pray for all who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult.

**We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.**

+ Align our ways to your love, O God. We lift up countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety.

+ We pray for the success of students attending Arusha Lutheran School of Nursing in Tanzania.

**We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:**

+ God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens.

+ We lift up Dave, Kip, Evy Emily, Mike, Anthony, Lynnette, Sheelagh, Claire, Carmine, Dan, JoAnne, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ Guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

**We pray hold in prayer those affected by the COVID-19 crisis.**

+ Bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died.

+ Grant healing for those diagnosed.

+ Keep safe those whose health conditions make them vulnerable.

+ Protect medical workers, care providers, and first responders.

+ Sustain chaplains who bring prayer and care to those hospitalized and in nursing homes.

+ We give thanks for all non-medical essential workers who continue to serve our communities providing food, medicine, safety, childcare, and other vital services.

+ Guide those working to improve testing and develop a vaccine. We lift up our government and health leaders as they discern a path forward.

+ Sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty. Help us to share generously.

+ Bless our ministry leaders as they explore care-filled ways to gather online for worship, prayer, and fellowship. We give thanks for the grace-filled support our leaders have shown one another.

+ For all who are anxious, ground us in facts and center us in your love and peace.

+ During these days of physical isolation, grant us patience, humor, compassion, and courage.

**We pray for those who are grieving:**

+ Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life.

+ We lift up the family and friends of Barbara, Evelyn, Susan and David.

**For what and for whom else do the people of God pray?**

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

**We pray for your church:**

+ We give thanks for the leaders and participants in our church ministries. Grant energy and creativity for their work. Grant them grace to rest, grant them peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the transition and call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

**Sustain us in our journey:**

+ With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 forever. Amen**

**BLESSING**

PM: The God of all grace,  
who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,  
restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**POSTLUDE**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* — tune: J. Zundel

Jiyoung Lee



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## Commemorations for the Week

### Matthias, Apostle, Thursday, May 14

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

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## Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader: Pastor Jim Kruse  
Assisting Minister: Jen Winslow  
Quartet: Alice Lewis, Lori Downey, Marc Montague, Scott Hafso  
Videographer: Elizabeth Waltzer  
Banner: Elaine Stamm  
Bulletin Cover: Craig Gillin

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21

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## Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*  
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*  
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*  
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



***Additional worship resources:***

Readings: Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1633; Tune: The Call; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

*Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.*

**Dave Carlson** a kidney donor will be found quickly.  
**Kip Hauser** healing and recovery following his angiogram. (father of Cheryl Hauser)  
**Evy Sneva** continued healing and medication monitoring, peace for her family. (Karen Hansen)  
**Emily Gacek** acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)  
**Mike Winkler** in ICU with COVID19, 48 yr. old Seattle Transit bus driver, strength and healing. (Jerry & Linda Nack)  
**Anthony Templeton** breathing problems and a long standing cold, unrelated to corona virus. (Grandson of Cheryl Landers)  
**Lynnette** eye infection and symptoms of corona virus. (daughter of Cheryl Neeb)  
**Sheelagh Sacks** undergoing radiation for ongoing breast cancer treatment. (Laura Anderson)  
**Claire Howe** healing/peace & strength as she recovers from a fall (Shelley Howe)  
**Carmine Kopecky** new born, healing of a heart defect (Cheryl Leiter)  
**Dan Cox** [brother of Ginger Grette] diagnosed with throat cancer. (Marilyn Carlson)  
**JoAnne Naganawa** cancer has returned, effective treatment, comfort and healing. (Marilyn Carlson)  
**Guests of the Community Meals Program** safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)  
**Sonja** 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)  
**Nicole DeCamp** healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)  
**Josee Jordan** peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)  
**Jeannie Lindquist** continued healing and strength.

**Healing and peace of mind:** **Marian James;** **Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur;** **Katie Moeller;** **Margot Inman;** **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson;** **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas** (Pr. Telyea); **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland;** **Randi Strom;** **Jeanne Kuipers;** **Talton Johnson;** **John Pass;** **Florence Kinnune;** **Carol Harbolt;** **Sandy Aldworth;** **Jen Winslow** (Wendy Winslow); **Larry Pruitt.**

**Undergoing cancer treatment:** **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Floyd Rogers** (Connie Fletcher); **Lori Anglin** (Janet Heck); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

**Living with cancer:** **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson;** **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

**Expectant Mothers:** **Jessica Murguia** (Cheryl Hauser); **Emily Wilson** (daughter of Ann & Larry Thomas); **Yili Leiter** (Cheryl Leiter); **Elsa Walker** (daughter of Chuck Bachman & Wendy Winslow)

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Barbara Nielson** (Karen Hansen); **Evelyn Timpe** (step-mother to Patty Gerde); **Susan Moffett** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **David Woods** (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

**Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.**

**Global Missions and Missionaries:** For the success of students attending Arusha Lutheran School of Nursing in Tanzania. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson.** Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

**Thanksgiving:** For the joyous birth of **Ashton Kendall Wilson** on April 15th to Emily & Dontay Wilson (granddaughter to Larry & Ann Thomas).

