

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 10, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:
Almighty God, 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
First Reading: Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

Reflection – Pastor Melissa
Jesus opens a door for us so that we can see God. He comes to be a brother to us and to allow us to know God in a human sort of way. He feeds us with bread and wine, body and blood, and shows us that God desires for all people to have their daily bread. He heals us from our hurts, our shameful secrets and selfish focus, and calls us out of ourselves to him through our neighbours in need. Knowing Jesus transforms the world in

which we live into a glimpse of God’s kingdom. He welcomes us into a new way of life, full of joy and love and deep seated peace.

Jesus reveals his role in God’s radical hospitality right before his arrest and crucifixion. He sacrifices not just his own comfort, but his own life in order to overcome the sin that would otherwise destroy us--in order to turn his place into our place.

In your baptism, you have been royally welcomed into God’s kingdom. You have been called to an ever-deepening relationship with Christ, one that begins now and never ends that not even death can destroy.

Lately I’ve been missing gathering in our church buildings and no doubt, church architecture tells a story and helps get us in the frame of mind of worship. It will be good to gather together again when it is safe to do so. But no less holy is the space under the evergreens in my front yard, or my living room couch, or sitting six feet away on my neighbour’s deck when we’re both feeling lonely and need the encouragement of a good visit, because now, God’s space is our space too.

May we notice God’s kingdom unfolding all around us, and may we show others a warm welcome, as we are cared for by the best host we could imagine. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:
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
Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.
Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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 (especially...). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Today we seek God’s blessing on the seeds which will be sown in our fields and gardens, and grant us a good harvest, so that there will be health and food for many of your children. May the seeds of faith and love which are within us grow, so that we may be mature, healthy, and fruitful disciples to your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

Lord’s Prayer

Fifth Sunday of Easter: As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds

we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Let us remember in our prayers: Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp

Also for everyone affected by COVID 19 - those who have been infected, those who are quarantined, those who continue to care for the sick, those making major decisions.

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers and caregivers of children.

Pastor Melissa’s worship video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/k1UaBE19mNg>

For more worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a. You can also access him on YouTube - just search Pastor Randy Fiege.
- Also, the Lutherans Connect Blog. <https://reimaginingjustice.blogspot.com/2020/03/>
- The ELCIC Sask Synod website has a list of worship livestreams from congregations across the country.

During this COVID 19 crisis, remember we need to stay connected and we can stay in touch with others simply by making a phone call!! Let us remember our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community. Please, don’t forget them!

Thank you to those of you who are intentionally checking in with congregation members and sharing access to online worship with those who don’t have internet. God bless you as you continue to minister in this way to your neighbours. Pastor Melissa

The Langham Community Refugee Sponsorship Committee is looking for donations to fund dental work for the group’s sponsored refugee family. Our refugee family arrived at the end of October - two parents and four boys. The mother and father are in bad need of dental work. Some work will be covered by the federal government’s dental plan for refugee families but not all. The amount needed to cover their dental work is around \$3500.00. If you are interested in making a donation, you may send an e-transfer to cbueckert@sasktel.net or send a cheque to the Langham Mennonite Fellowship, Box 285, Langham, SK S0K 2L0. If you wish to receive a charitable tax receipt, provide name and mailing address along with your donation. Thank you.

CLAY 2020 - Postponed to 2021 - members of the executive for the 2020 CLAY Gathering National Planning Committee from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) have decided to postpone this event to August 19-22, 2021 which will be held at the Southern Alberta Institute for Technology (SAIT) in Calgary, AB. For more info see <http://claygathering.ca/covid/>

Even though we don’t meet each Sunday for worship, the expenses are still there. You can still give your donation to your church:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

St. Paul - for a printed copy of each week’s bulletin, you can find them at the back of the church or in a bag on the front step.

For ELCIC news and updates check out the website at sask.synod.elcic.ca.

Happy Birthday this week: Gretta Waldner, Ron Schreiner, Conner Rothenburger, Hannah Albus, Brady Sample, Shawn Mitchler

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ 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.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ 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.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14

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

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