

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

J.G. Walther

Welcome

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms:
As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. (Isa. 66:13)

All: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:
Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isa.49:15)

All: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

One: David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:
But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me (Psalm 131:2)

All: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing? (Matthew 23:37)

All: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

One: Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:
...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

All: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.** (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

*Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*

#14

*Call to Confession

Trusting in God's love, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Confession of Sin (unison)

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. 1 Pet. 2:7

**We have harbored malice toward our enemies;
we have been deceitful in our relationships;
we have been insincere in our commitments;
through gossip we have slandered our friends.** 1 Pet. 2:1

**Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance.
Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.** 1 Pet. 2:2

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, 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. 1 Pet. 2:10
In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.** Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen. 1 Pet. 2:9

First Reading

Proverbs 31:1-31 page 613

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16 page 505

One: The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Timothy 1:1-14 page 211

One: The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10 page 233

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Celebrating the Gifts of Women

Rev. Terry Epling

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. [The Apostles Creed].

***Hymn** *God We Praise You for the Women* (see insert)
Tune: BEACH SPRING, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

~Responding to God's Word~

Invitation to Give

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *Now Thank We All Our God* Kaufmann

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #606
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.***

*** Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of talents; here are our gifts of money; building stones for Your Kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within Your loving purpose. Amen.

Life in Our Church Community

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #366

***Benediction**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen

***Postlude** *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men* J.G. Walther

***Please stand, if you are able.**

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.

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