

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER**

Service for the Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14.6*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Song: *He Is Lord*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

**Christ our Passover**

*1 Corinthians 5.7–8; Romans 6.9–11; 1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

**death no longer has dominion over him.**

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

**the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

For since by a man came death, \*

**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**

For as in Adam all die, \*

**so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Acts 7:55–60.

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

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

Psalm 31:1–16

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.**

I hate those who cling to worthless idols, \*

**and I put my trust in the Lord.**

I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy; \*

**for you have seen my affliction; you know my distress.**

You have not shut me up in the power of the enemy; \*

**you have set my feet in an open place.**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; \*

**my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.**

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; \*

**my strength fails me because of affliction,**

**and my bones are consumed.**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,

a dismay to those of my acquaintance; \*

**when they see me in the street they avoid me.**

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \*

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; \*

**they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.**

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. \*

**I have said, “You are my God.**

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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the first letter of Peter 2:2–10.

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

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 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. 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.”

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,”

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.

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.

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.”

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn: How I Love You* (MP #246)

Canticle 18a: **The Song of Mary** – *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*

**for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

the promise he made to our fathers, \*

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (14:1–10). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 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’? 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. 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. 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, “Hear us, Lord of glory!”

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***] that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour:  
look with favour upon thy servant Charles our King, and bestow upon him such gifts of wisdom and love that we and all thy people may live in peace and prosperity and in loving service one to another, to thine eternal glory;  
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us.

**We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**We thank you also for those disappointments and failures**

**that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

Collect

*Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.*

*Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn: *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* (MP #272)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**