

(During this time of extraordinary circumstances, this abridged Liturgy of the Word is designed to be used in the home in conjunction with its corresponding online video podcast.)

Prelude (Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16)

Chant Setting by James Turle

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"We Praise You, O God"

ELW # 870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Niederlandsch Gedenckclanck*. 1626

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.**

First Reading

1st Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

2Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5like 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. 6For 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."

7To 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," 8and

"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.

9But 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. 10Once 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.

The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Jesus said to the disciples) 1"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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Anthem

Homily

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith:

**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 Intercession

Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

God of grace, we pray for your Church, for this congregation, and for all our faith communities... that we may recognize our calling as your chosen, holy, and priestly people, and bring forth your reign in our lives and our communities. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray for all who strive to help bring forth a New Heaven and a New Earth, especially those who fight poverty, hunger, and homelessness... that your light and love will shine through their work and be a sign of encouragement and calling for all of us. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray, Lord God, for a new springtime of deeds of faith in our own daily living, especially during this time of great upheaval in our world... that we may be active in doing the works of Christ and become, ourselves, your own instruments of grace and vessels of hope. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

God of promise and of new life, we offer our prayers for the well-being of all your people, including *Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Arlene Schirmer, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Bill Rickrim, Frances Franz, Charlie Boehme, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Muriel Leafstedt*, as well as those whom we name either aloud or in our hearts... that your Holy and Healing Spirit touch their lives for the strengthening of their bodies and their spirits. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

With alleluias in our hearts and on our lips, we commend to your care, O Lord, all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your Kingdom, and help us to pray:

Our Father...

Benediction

God has given us a new and living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and raise you to new life,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"You Are the Way"

ELW # 758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane. 1799–1859. alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh. 1615

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not let your hearts be troubled. For Christ goes with you.
Amen! Alleluia!

Postlude

The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).
For prayer requests, please contact the church office (210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org