



**Redeemer Lutheran**  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  

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*Finding **Life** in Community*

## **5th Sunday of Easter** Sunday, May 2, 2021

(Congregational Parts are in **Bold**)

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The church is local and it is more than just local. A church-sized group of Christians is able to decide some things, but sometimes, more voices need to be brought into the conversation. The dispute arises in Antioch, and when the dissension escalates, the church at Antioch sends its leaders and “some of the others” to Jerusalem. (Are these “others” the teachers who oppose Paul and Barnabas, or rank-and-file members of the church in Antioch — or representatives of both groups? The answer is not clear from the text.)*

*Sometimes a way forward comes through the realization that long-standing differences are not necessarily defining differences. “We” thought we were different from “them,” but as we get to know each other, we find points of similarity and contact. In his speech, Peter works to overcome the “us” (Jews) and “them” (others/Gentiles) distinction. God has given Gentiles the Holy Spirit and faith (15:8-9), just as God gave these gifts to those Jews who are numbered among believers in Jesus. Moreover, the Jews who believe in Jesus believe that they will be saved, not by keeping the Law, but by “the grace of the Lord Jesus.” In these ways, there are no distinctions between Jewish and Gentile believers.*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us lay down:

**those things which divide and dull our relationships together that cause conflict of little worth.**

Let us lay down:

**those issues that are more about us than about the love of God.**

Let us lay down:

**the words we have said that have hurt those we spoke them to.**

Let us lay down:

**the grudges we cling onto from ages past.**

Let us lay down:

**the fear of straying through faith into areas in which we have no experience.**

Let us lay down:

**our fear of a future that is not comfortable and familiar.**

Let us lay down:

**the anger we have of those who wish to remain with what is familiar  
and with those who wish to explore further.**

Let us lay down:

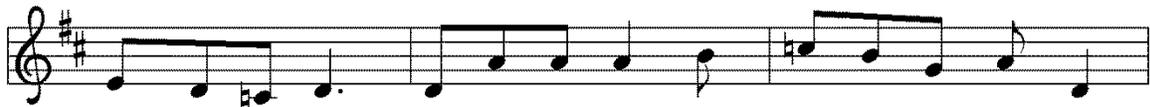
**that which is unloving and does not bring life.**

**GATHERING HYMN: *Gather Us In* #532**

# Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



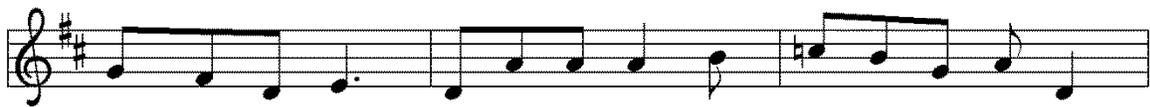
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



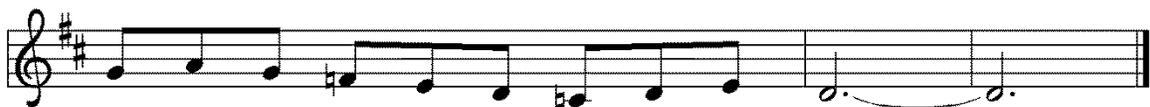
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## GREETING

The grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all, **in Jesus you have made us all siblings in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (setting 12 in ACS page 33)



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL: Acts 15: 1-18

The holy gospel as found in the book of Acts.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Church's One Foundation* #654  
Verses 1, 3, and 5

# The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING** *Go to our website for instructions on how you might contribute to the ministry of Redeemer. [www.redeemerlutheran.ca](http://www.redeemerlutheran.ca)*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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# OFFERING PRAYER

## DIALOGUE

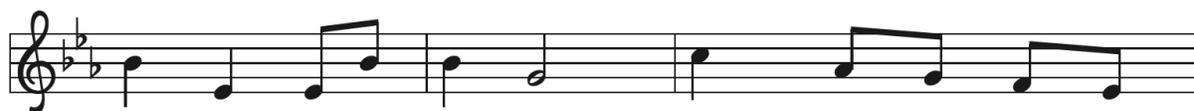
God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks and praise to our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## HOLY HOLY HOLY (setting 12 in ACS page 36)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and amen.  
**Amen, and amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## COMMUNION SONG (ACS Setting #12 - p. 40)



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## COMMUNION

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Redeemer Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing #547*

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



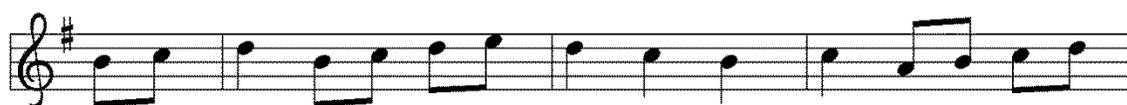
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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*Introduction is from Mary Hinkle Shore, Rector and Dean Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Columbia, S.C. and found on [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org)*