

Bread for the Journey: May 7, 2020 Part 11: “Oh Give Me a Home”

**Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!
He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**



Moonlight.

American, 1819. Washington Allston, 1779-1843. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Order for House Worship on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10th

Includes Scripture Readings for this Sunday.

Please Listen...

[I Know That My Redeemer Lives](#)

Words by: Samuel Medley, 1775. Music by: John Hatton, 1793. Sung By: Linda Rowberry, 2002.

[A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.](#)

Narrated by Max McLean.

"Oh, Give Me a Home!"

A Sermon for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

by *Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor*

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Riverside.

Welcome back everyone for this **6th YouTube sermon**—I think—and the **11th segment in our “Bread for the Journey” series**. The vegetable garden is already planted in the boxes near the **church** patio with tomato and eggplant seedlings On the windowsill of the parsonage bathroom where I can easily encourage them. Jane has planted her zinnias and cana **bulbs** while the bees have been buzzing **busily** through the plum trees outside the sun porch windows. I’m **predicting** a bumper crop this year, providing jars of preserves for the **Annual Fall Festival**. Not promising! The days here are filled with lots of phone calling; email correspondence; card writing; sermon **preparation**, composing, recording and uploading; preparing devotional materials **for email**; looking for **inspirational and meaningful** music and hymns; praying for the congregation, the nation, and the peoples of the earth; learning **and using** virtual **means** of communication (we’ve all heard of Zoom and Face Time, but anyone for Google Duo, Google Hangouts, GotoMeeting?); wondering what congregational life and pastoral ministry will eventually **morph into**; trying to keep track of the day of the week; **imagining the first return in-person worship service**; wandering around in the **moonlight**; **and missing you!** Welcome to life and ministry during a pandemic. Jane and I remain deeply grateful for your personal and prayer support **which has come to us in many ways**, and we long for the time when we can be together again to share one another's joys and sorrows. May we continue to trust that our modest efforts and small sacrifices are sparing so many others of the suffering, grief and hardship of the present darkness. I pray that the Holy Spirit would sustain and strengthen us with faith in the living God who **always** creates light from darkness, brings good from evil, and raises life from death. The peace, light and hope of our Lord’s cross and resurrection be with you and your household—and with all the peoples of the earth!—djl

Please listen and sing...

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Words by Elizabeth C. Clephane.

Sung by the Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute Singers.



At LaGrange Hospital Chapel on a January evening 2020 pastoral visit.

Please listen and sing...

[Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!](#)

Music by David N. Johnson. Lyrics by Herbert F. Brokering.

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson.

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE **MANSIONS**?
DIDN'T THERE USED
TO BE **MANSIONS**?

THAT'S AN
ARCHAIC
TRANSLATION.

BESIDES, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE
ARCHITECTURE, IT'S ABOUT
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
FATHER THROUGH JESUS.

I **GET** THAT! ALL I'M
SAYING IS I WISHED THAT
THE FATHER HADN'T
DOWN SIZED!



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Hope Doesn't Disappoint

A Message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, April 23rd, 2020.

From the writings of Thomas Merton...

***O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.***

(Source: Thomas Merton, Pax Christi, Benet Press, Erie, PA.)

The Life Activity: When Jesus talks about leaving the disciples it probably felt to them like their lives were over. Find things this week that bring you life, whether it is a hobby, walking through nature, cooking, music, or art. Before you begin that activity pray a prayer of thanks to God for the life it brings you. After the activity offer up another prayer of thanks for God's grace that gives you new life in Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer

God of all troubled hearts, help us to believe in you when we feel worried, upset, lost, and cannot seem to find you. Jesus, remind us each day that through your words and actions you point us to God. May we point others to you, Lord, through the work you have given to us today. Through the Holy Spirit help us make room for you in our homes and our hearts, and to know that wherever we dwell, you are there living in us. Amen.

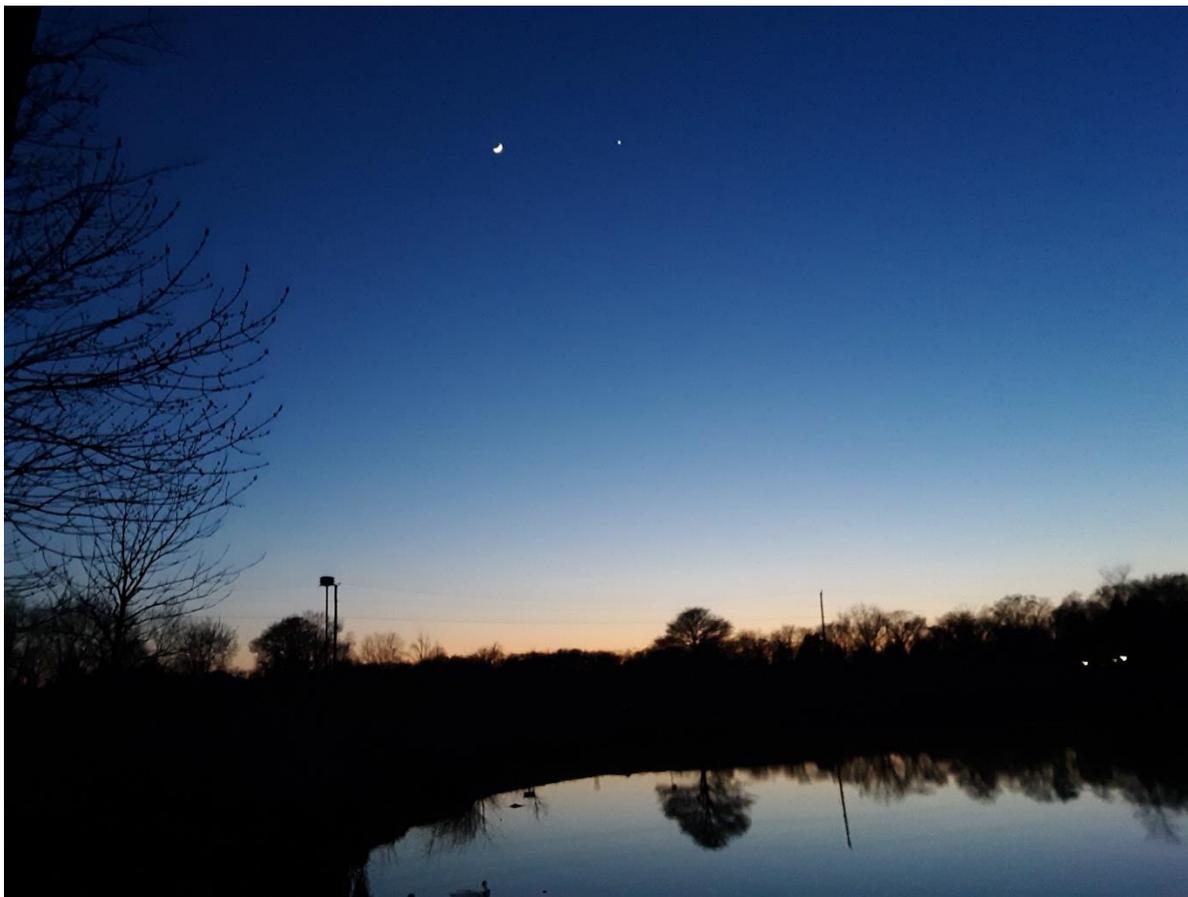
Beannacht

An Irish Blessing by John O'Donahue.

"Even When He Is Silent"

by Kim André Arnesen

The St. Olaf Choir, Anton Armstrong, Conductor, performs "Even When He Is Silent" by Kim André Arnesen. Recorded in concert at Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim, Norway on June 16, 2013.



Social Distancing in the Heavens

A crescent moon and Venus watching over a springtime sunset on the Salt Creek in Oak Brook on Sunday, April 26th, about as "close" as they ever appear.

A very strong proof of this destruction of death and its conquest by the cross is supplied by a present fact, namely this. All the disciples of Christ despise death; they take the offensive against it and, instead of fearing it, by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ trample on it as on something dead (St. Athanasius, fourth century).



[May Parish Newsletter...](#)

Please download and print for those who do not have access to electronic communication.

■ [May 2020 Parish Newsletter.pdf](#)

[How to Find Peace in a Pandemic](#)

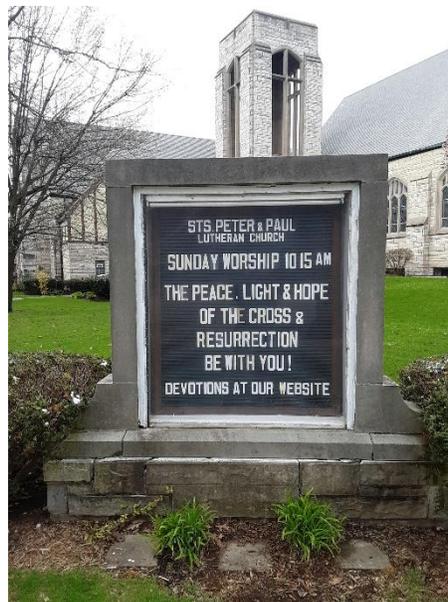
By Daniel Darling. Published by *In Touch Ministries*.

Submitted by Charles Matthies.



Many people are without work; they don't have to be without food. Your donation will go a long way at... [Feeding America](#).

[Pastoral Ministry in the Bronx during the Pandemic](#)



[From the Village of Riverside: Be Counted](#)



A Ray of Light in Our Darkness:

[Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Riverside](#)

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“Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Christ, hear us. In mercy hear us. God, the Father in heaven, have mercy on us. God, the Son, redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us. Be gracious to us. Spare us, good Lord...”
(from the opening verses of The Litany, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, pages 168ff).

Please consider praying (and singing) [The Litany](#) in your homes during the evening hours.