

Home Service for May 10, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

I would like to start today's service with a Mother's Day Prayer.

Dear Lord, Bless every mother and every grandmother with the finest of your spiritual blessings today. Confirm in her heart and spirit the work of her hands and the love that she has so freely given to those children under Your care. Validate her worth daily, so she has no reason to doubt whether she is loved, valued, and cherished in the eyes of her Heavenly Father.

Create in her a deep sense of your protection and trust, so that worry and fear will disappear as she places her loved ones into Your care. Let her know that every prayer she has prayed and every encouraging word she has spoken on behalf of her children/grandchildren has been transformed into sweet, fragrant offerings before Your throne.

Whisper deep within her spirit the sweet words she longs to hear from You—that nothing can ever separate her from Your love. Help her to nestle daily into the promises of Your Word, standing with faith on the things You declare are true. Let her know that You reward faithfulness, but that true success doesn't lie in her accomplishments or accolades. Let her rest in the knowledge that she has done all she can—and that she and those she loves—truly belong to you. Bless her with a servant spirit so she can teach her own the joy of hearing one day, "Well done!" Let her joy be contagious; let her passion be pure; and let her life overflow with all the blessings she deserves—on special days, and on every day of her life. In Jesus's name, Amen

Through fire and testing, God brings us to a place of blessing and promise. The Holy Spirit leads us onto the great path of love.

Call to Worship:

God is the creator of all, not just those who claim to be the people of God. God calls and welcomes all of humanity into community. We, who claim our love for Christ, are invited to extend extravagant welcome in both word and action to all of God's children everywhere.

Opening Prayer:

Holy flame, burn away our fears and regrets, that our spirits may shine like burnished gold. Refiner's Fire, purify our lives like precious silver, that our hearts may glow with holy love. Forge of truth, mold us into vessels of compassion, that our lives may reveal your glory. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Fulfiller of our lives, we yearn to embody your commandment of love and pursue what we know is right. We long to ease the plight of others, even as we seek our own comfort. Nurture our hope this day, as we fulfill your commandment of love, that we may live as your children and abide in your Spirit. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Even when we are tested by the refiner's fire, God brings us to a place of laughter and light on the other side of our trials. The Advocate meets us in our suffering and heals us in holy love.

Read Psalm 66:8-20

Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹ he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.
¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings
and fulfill my vows to you—
¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke
when I was in trouble.
¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you
and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
¹⁹ but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
²⁰ Praise be to God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!

Prayers of the People:

Lord of love, you have asked us to keep your commandments. In your life you demonstrated the power of love to effect healing, redemption, and hope in the lives of all your people. Yet we are so unsure of the gifts that you have given us for ministry that we wonder if we can really do what you want us to do. We are a strange mixture, Lord. We are arrogant in our demands of your mercy and timid in our awareness of the blessings and gifts you have given to us. That's why we're here today. We really want to sense your presence and receive courage truly to be your people in this world that you have loaned to us. Remind us when we bring names and circumstances before your throne of Grace that we also bring our own needs and concerns. Lay your healing hand upon our hearts and spirits. We place our lives and our trust in you, O Lord. AMEN.

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 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, and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Read the Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’^[a] As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’^[b]

²⁹ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Read the Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats^[a]; do not be frightened.”^[b] ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive,^[c] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[d] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Read the Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21

“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of

truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Message

Knowledge has become very important among us. Our society places a high value on knowledge and learning. Today, we are going to learn about the high value of knowledge that we possess, because we have been given God’s spiritual knowledge. For, you and I know that the learning and the book knowledge that people gain is not as important as God’s knowledge of salvation. That is what the Lord reminds us this morning when He tells us that by His grace you and I know and possess the knowledge of salvation; namely, God’s promises. Why? Because you and I are God’s children.

As we read today’s Gospel again we find Jesus providing encouragement for his disciples and, we too should be encouraged. Jesus and his disciples were in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday having a very private moment, because in a short time, Jesus was going to be very publicly put to death on the cross. In verse 16, Jesus states: And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. Some translations call “Counselor” or “Comforter,” but both terms refer to the Holy Spirit. The disciples already had that Spirit in them, but the Lord says He is going to send that Spirit in even a greater measure for them, the Spirit of Truth.

Jesus said that: The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But we know him, for he lives with us and will be in us. That Spirit of truth was alive and well and living in the disciples. By grace they knew the promises of God. By grace they had seen the Lord Jesus make promises time and again, and then fulfill them. Jesus also tells them: I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. That statement probably did not mean much to them at that time when they were sitting there just after celebrating the Lord’s Supper. But on that Good Friday, the disciples probably thought about that statement when Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans.” Jesus was reminding them they were God’s very own children and the same is true for us. Neither the disciples nor us would be forgotten or forsaken. Both would be forgiven. Again, theirs and our reactions as God’s children was to love the Lord. Jesus states that: He who loves me will be

loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him. Time and again the Lord Jesus had revealed Himself to His disciples. Time and again Jesus tried to get the disciples to understand that He was God's Son. So, Jesus states here, "As you love me, you love the Father and the Father loves you." Now as the disciples knew God's promises by grace, they were moved to love the Lord. May we also love the Lord.

By grace we are made believers. By grace we come to know the promises of God and begin to love and to live as His children. That is the most amazing statement, God looks at us as His children. God's holy word reminds us as Christ first loved us, we love Him. There is now a great difference in our life. We are ready, willing, and excited to love the Lord, our heavenly Father. Time and again the Lord reminds us there is forgiveness and life. Our reaction to love the Lord is to love Him and strive to love Him perfectly. By God's powerful grace we are given the strength to love God above all things. By God's free grace we are caused to realize that our lives have been changed. They have been changed from going down the path of destruction into ascending on the path of life because of the Lord's love for us. Our reaction is to love the Lord as His children.

By grace we know God's promises of eternal life and forgiveness, and we love Him for that. The next step of loving the Lord is obeying the Lord. For God's children obey the Lord. That is what Jesus tells His disciples. As Jesus and his disciples are gathered together in the upper room. This was one of their closest, most personal times together. They are celebrating the Lord's Supper where Jesus said, "This is my body. This is my blood given and shed for you." Jesus speaks those same words to us during Communion. That first Easter Sunday they are still locked away in the upper room. What does the Lord tell them? He said, "If I go, I will come back." In our Gospel He said, Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. So it was when Jesus was put to death, the scribes and Pharisees thought that was the end. They would never open their eyes to see Jesus again, but the disciples could and did.

Jesus appeared to them. Also, the truth of the Spirit was still alive and well in them. It took them a while to overcome those tears of grief and mourning of the loss of their Savior. That first Sunday, Jesus came and said, "Peace be with you." The second Sunday He came and said the same thing. But what else does He promise? He said, "I promise to give you another Counselor." In verse 20: On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Jesus is talking about the unity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is talking about the day of Pentecost.

They had loved the Lord and now they obeyed Him. Both the disciples and each of us are reminded by Jesus that, if you love, you will obey what he has commanded. Jesus' command to his disciples and to us was to go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel of salvation. Jesus reminded them in verse 21, Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. There is not one of us here who would doubt the love of the disciples for Jesus. There is not one of us here that would question the loyalty and obedience of the disciples. They followed Jesus to the very end of their life. Why did they do it? They knew the promises of God! Jesus said to them in the middle of our Gospel: I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...Because I live, you also will live. The disciples had come to realize that in their short life and short acquaintance with the Savior, that the promise of the Lord's divine love was eternal. Their earthly life made no difference anymore. The disciples truly loved God as God's children, and they obeyed the Savior as God's children.

May we too remember that, by grace we are given faith, and our faith is able to overcome the world with its sinful desires and temptations. By grace our faith follows God's commands. We are given the motivation to love and obey, not because we feel we have to or we must; but because the Lord has first loved us. Christ came and obeyed and kept the Law so that through His obedience you and I are forgiven. Through Christ's obedience God has kept the Law through His Son for us. Obeying our loving Lord is not to be something that ought to seem hard and difficult even though the world around us would tell us, differently.

The Lord reminds us that by His grace we know His promises. His promises are many. God promises to never leave us nor forsake us. For by God's grace, we know His promises. Christ is the Rock. Christ is the Cornerstone of our faith. Then Christ becomes the Rock and the Cornerstone of our lives.

Chapter 14 of John has provided our Gospels for the last couple weeks and hopefully we remember that Jesus told His disciples in the upper room, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Peace, I leave with you" two different times. God reminds his children, "I am your Heavenly Father who takes care of you." By grace we know God's promises. We know the wisdom of salvation. Because we know the wisdom of salvation, as His children we love the Lord. Then, as God's children our love moves us to obey the Lord. For as we know the promises of God, we know that they are sure. By God's grace, you and I know God's promises. There are many, and they are always true. Therefore, as God's very own, dear children, we love the Lord and obey the Lord because all He has promised us including eternal life. Amen.

Benediction:

Go now to love and serve God in the blessing of the Spirit who journeys with you as we live the unfolding story of God's dream for creation here and now. Amen.