

PRAYERS for May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Confirmation)

Worship Assistant: On this fifth Sunday of Easter, let us pray to our Risen Savior on behalf of the church, the world, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Heavenly Father, You give us a sense of Your presence as we gather today for worship. Give us gratitude as we remember Your goodness; give us thankfulness as we remember that You chose us; and give us joy as we remember Your love. We thank You for preparing our hearts for what You say to us this morning. We thank You for preparing our eyes so that we might see You and know You. We thank You that we are able to sing joyous songs and praises to You with not only our lips but also with our hearts, our souls, and all that we are. We ask You to be gracious to us, bless us, and make Your face shine upon us for You are our rock and our fortress.

Risen Savior.....*hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Father God, be with us today as we celebrate with Colin Hacker and his family as he professes his faith, his confidence, and his love for his Savior. We thank You for the covenant You made with us and our children in Holy Baptism. You have brought Colin through the study of Your Word to know the meaning of his baptism. Today he stands before us and confesses You as the only true God. Remind him that he will grow with You and in You as he uses Your Word daily and applies it to his life. As members of Your holy church, we rededicate our lives to You and ask You to give us strength and grace to live closer to You, our Lord and Savior.

Risen Savior*hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Blessed Jesus, thank You for being the way to Your Father's house, the truth that sets us free, and the life which raises us out of sin and death. We thank You for being the love that will not ever let us go. Help us remain joyful knowing that You are our light in the darkness, our rock of refuge, and our hope of salvation. Like Stephen, there are many today who are persecuted for proclaiming You as Lord. Give them grace and strength that You gave Stephen to fearlessly speak Your truth in love, to forgive and pray for their enemies, and to remain faithful to the end.

Risen Savior*hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Healing Spirit, bless, heal, comfort, and sustain Your people who are hurting today. Spread Your love over us and draw us more closely into the peaceful fellowship of Christ where there is forgiveness, gladness, and rest. We especially ask You to be with all our friends and families on our prayer list and whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Risen Savior*hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Protecting Spirit, guide, protect, and strengthen all who defend life and liberty here and around the world. Be the shield and defender of those who risk their lives for our sake. When they are wounded or stressed, bring healing, hope, and peace to them and to their loved ones. Turn the hearts of those who seek to do us harm and give us Your peace when our hearts are troubled. Continually remind us that our times are in Your hands.

Risen Savior*hear our prayer.*

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**