

Sunday, May 14, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Foundation"

Wilbur Held

*GATHERING SONG

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

ELW 377

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain***

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain***

**Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain***

**City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain***

*GREETING

☞ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

☞ **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

**for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

***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!**

ANTHEM

"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Gordon Young

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reflection

Who is Stephen? (See Acts 6:1-8) This text is at the end of Stephen's sermon to the Jewish leaders who have put him on trial for his faith in Jesus. You can read the whole sermon and what led up to it in Acts 6:8-7:53. As he is facing death, who does Stephen see? (verses 55-56) What do the leaders do to Stephen? (verses 57-58) What is Stephen's prayer as he dies? (verse 59-60) Compare this to what Jesus said in Luke (Volume 1 of Luke-Acts) as he was dying. (see Luke 23:34, 46) Note that this text is our first introduction as readers to Saul, who will become Paul. (verse 58) What do you learn about faith from the story of Stephen's death by the mob? What do you learn about Jesus?

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never
be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

²**Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are
my crag | and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who | persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

Reflection

As you read this psalm, think about Jesus and his disciple, Stephen. One way of reading the psalms is to read them as the prayers of Jesus (which, of course, they were, because Jesus was a Jew). When in the life of Jesus (and in the story of Stephen) would they have prayed this psalm? Where have you read verse 5 before? Have there been times in your life when this psalm would be a good one for you to pray? What do you think it means for your faith to be able to pray, “My times are in your hand”? (verse 15) How will you pray this prayer, not only for yourself, but perhaps also for the people for whom we pray every Sunday? What do you learn about faith from this psalm?

SECOND READING

1 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.

Reflection

*This text reminds me that faith is a matter not only of thinking, but also of all of our senses. What might it mean to you to taste that the Lord is good? (verses 2-3) What does it mean to you that Christ is a “living stone”? Some people carry a stone around in their pocket, which they can touch and be reminded of Christ the living stone. What does a stone feel like to your fingers? How might that remind you of Christ? The writer of 1 Peter is also thinking about stones that are built into houses. What might it mean if **we** are the stones building a spiritual house? How is our faith, when it is shared, become stronger? Who is our cornerstone? (verse 6) the author reminds us that stones can build up, or they can make us stumble. (verses 7-8) When might we stumble over the stone of Christ? The author reminds us, though, that we are not the stumblers. Who are we, the baptized? (verse 9) How has baptism changed us? (verse 10) As you reflect on the various ways you encounter faith this week, think of the sweet milk of faith, the smooth and solid stone that is Christ, the strength that we receive from one another in sharing our faith. What is the metaphor that you find most helpful as you think of faith?*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

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.

[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.”

Reflection

What is it like to live with Jesus? This text is often used at funerals, but on this fifth Sunday of Easter we have it in the context of the resurrection. Do you think we will live with Jesus only when we die? Or are we living with Jesus now in the dwelling places he has prepared for us? (verses 1-4) What would it mean for your faith in troubled and troubling times if you knew that the place that Jesus has prepared for us is

here and now? Thomas asks, "Okay, Lord, but how do we get there?" (verse 5) How does Jesus answer him? (verse 6) Here's how I would paraphrase what Jesus says: It is not a place, it's a person—Jesus! If we know Jesus, we know the Father, and we are "there!" What do you think? Philip's question is, "We want to see God, the Father." (verse 8) How does Jesus answer him? (verse 9) What does it mean to you when Jesus says, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me"? When we hear Jesus' words, we hear and see the works of the Father. What proof does Jesus offer for this? (verse 11) What are the works of God that the apostles would have seen? What works of God do you see here in our life together? This is like a beautiful mystery to me—we enter into Jesus when we have faith in him, and so we enter into God. The faith is not something we come up with on our own, but it is the gift we receive when we enter into God's grace, into faith in Jesus. What do you think it means to do the works of Jesus? (verse 12) What does it mean to you, in the context of this text, that Jesus promises to do whatever we ask in his name? What will we receive when we pray this prayer? How does the Father glorify Jesus in our works and prayers? If this all makes you feel a little bit like Thomas, or Philip (where are we going? how will we get there?), or if you feel a little lost in this text, I do too! I think it is not something that you can diagram, but maybe you have to dance it!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

DISCOVERY TALK

Gene Rasmussen

SERMON

"Safety and Security"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Why Should I Feel Discouraged"

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

**Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely
and long for heav'n and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

Refrain

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

**"Let not your heart be troubled,"
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leads me
but one step I may see:**

his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. *Refrain*

Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
from care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

☒ 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!

***PRAYER SONG** *"Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering"*

Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
as incense to you arise.
Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
my hands lifted up in praise.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Show us your ways. Teach us your truth. Enliven us in mission. Keep us from discord. Lead us to unity for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. Turn us away from impulses to pollute this world. Protect fragile habitats. Nurture our planet to be a life-sustaining home for generations yet to be born. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Fill all leaders with a spirit of compassion for the poor and oppressed. Give courage to those who work for justice and equality. Bring an end to conflict and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. Draw near to those who struggle with depression. Comfort those for whom this day evokes heartache or sorrow. Console those who grieve, and heal those who are ill *especially Willard, Cody, Terry, Chester, Peggy Ann, Owen, Gerald, Dave, Trisha, Samantha, Bob, Sheylin, Terry, Stephanie, Dorothy, Linda, Scott, Alva*. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless mothers and all who offer motherly care. Strengthen child care workers, nursery attendants, and those who teach our youth. Uphold our elders and those who care for aging parents. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith and those who have borne witness to your love. Bring us with them to dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Glorify Thy Name"

**Father we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth**

**Jesus we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth**

**Spirit we love You
We worship and adore You
Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

C **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW 762

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heaven.
Holy, holy is our God.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of all of hist'ry.
Holy, holy is our God.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Q **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,**

now and forever. Amen!

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. Hallelujah!*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

G Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Life-giving God,*

G **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.*

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"God Sent His Son" vs. 1 and the refrain x2
Because He Lives

**God sent His Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon
an empty grave is there to prove
My Savior lives.**

**Because he lives I can face tomorrow;
because he lives all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because He lives (repeat)**

***DISMISSAL**

P *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

G Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P *You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.*

G Thanks be to God!