THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10th, 2020



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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GENEROSITY THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Matt. 17:8 – "And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only." Jesus is enough. Moses and Elijah point to Jesus and are happy to fade into the background. With our eyes focused on Him – and Him alone – the rest of our lives come into focus. He is primary; all else is secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

****Early service* responses are <u>spoken</u>. *Late service* responses are <u>sung</u>.*** OPENING HYMN 584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing



INVOCATION, OPENING SENTENCES, & CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.
- ▶ Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **G** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.



INTROIT Ps. 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

- Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!
- **C** I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
- O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.



EARLY SERVICE—HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST

- **P** This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!
- **C** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, and wisdom are His. 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. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

LATE SERVICE—HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST





● O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore,

brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen...

And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me....

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- **C** When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
- Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

- **P** who keeps faith forever;
- who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
- **P** The LORD sets the prisoners free;
- **C** the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
- **P** The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- **G** the LORD loves the righteous.
- **P** The LORD watches over the sojourners;
- he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,"

and

"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

EARLY SERVICE—ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

G death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.



John 14:1-14





[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.



SERMON

It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **P** ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.
- **P** ...all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forevermore.

C Amen.









A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

There are many notions and convictions about worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It is our belief that Jesus Christ is really present in this holy meal – that in eating and drinking the bread and wine, we receive Christ's true body and blood. Because it can be received in an unworthy manner for judgement rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27) we make use of the practice of close(d) communion. If you are not a confirmed member in good standing of a sister congregation within our Synod, you may come forward to receive a blessing by crossing your hands over your chest. Even if you do not come forward, please join us as we pray for that time when all divisions cease, and God's elect will be together in joyous assembly in the banquet hall of heaven!

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS - SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SANITIZING

In order to conform to social distancing standards, we will make use of a "rotational practice" of communion and will commune as individuals/families. Please wait to be dismissed before approaching to receive communion. Please know Pastor is santizing his hands before distribution with hand sanitizer and the chalice between uses with a solution of Everclear and water.

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

"O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For Questions and Answers to help PREPARE for the Lord's Supper, turn to page 329 in hymnal.



THANKSGIVING



■ We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION





Acknowledgments

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