

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ✠ May 10, 2020

***WELCOME!** As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's Holy Gospel reading includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As the Second Reading reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the One who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our Way, our Truth, and our Life.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

- 1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 She is His new creation By water and the Word.
 From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
 With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

- 2 Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
 Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.

- 3 Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
 By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
 And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

- 4 Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
 She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
 Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

- 5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our behavior—through things we have done and things we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our**

whole heart. We have not loved those around us as we ought. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of X Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

All: **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 commands, and to share his risen life with all the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE— “My Soul Rejoices”

LSB 933

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing
God, who is solely Mighty and holy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted.
Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken
To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Acts 6:1-9; 7:1a, 51-60, ESV

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. Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

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 your fathers not 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.

THE SECOND READING – 1 Peter 2:2-10, ESV

In the Epistle reading we read the 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 in and through Jesus Christ.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into 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.

THE ALLELUIA RESPONSE— “Seek Ye First”

LSB 712

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!
- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

- 3 Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 14:1-14, ESV

[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.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE SERMON HYMN – “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” Tune: LSB 900

- 1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife; Such a life as killeth death.
- 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: Such a list as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length; Such a strength as makes his guest.
- 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part; Such a heart as joys in love.

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” LSB 902

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now; Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine, And let Your truth within us shine.
- 2 Unseal our lips to sing Your praise In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds; And set us free from doubt that blinds.
- 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, “O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place We then shall see You face to face.

- 4 All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” **LSB 465**

- 4 Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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