

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Chosen to Be Living Stones

May 17 & 18, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. He has chosen believers to be His own through faith. We are indeed a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession” (1 Peter 2:9). Even so, as we traverse our days on this sinful earth, we can expect trials and tribulations to come our way. One of God’s chosen disciples, Stephen, experienced such trials in the ultimate way. As he preached the law, he was rejected and stoned to death. However, God was preparing a home for Stephen as He is for all believers. Jesus promises that He will come again and take us home to Himself in heaven. Rejoice in our resurrected Savior as we focus our eyes heavenward!

WELCOME

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #463 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

People: “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.”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: “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.” Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Lord, we, like so many others who have called ourselves your people for centuries have a way of taking your salvation for granted. We use the Good News of Jesus to make ourselves appear to be better than others with whom we disagree. Teach us, dear Lord, that you would have all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth. Forgive our sins and cleanse us of unrighteousness. Teach us instead to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

Pastor: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav’nly King.

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To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you chose believers to be yours through faith in Christ Jesus. Build up your Church to be living stones built on the Cornerstone that all might proclaim the excellencies of you who have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 6:1–9, 7:2a, 51–60 (The martyrdom of Stephen)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) – Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen. To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a

prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:2–10 (You are a chosen race.)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe. "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they are destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

8:00 ANTHEM

"The Good Shepherd" Zebulon M. Highben

Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1–14 (Let not your hearts be troubled.)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father,

living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

SERMON "Built on the Rock to Be Living Stones" 1 Peter 2:2-6

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Holy Father, your Son promised to give all things that we ask in His name.

People: Grant us to pray continually, that the gifts of the Gospel may bear fruit and multiply among us, and that we would live a life of love for the blessing of our neighbor.

Pastor: Gracious Father, your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Grant us all to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Word, faithfully receive the blessed Sacrament, and remain faithful to you, even unto death.

People: Bless our confirmands as they profess the faith and express their intentions to faithfully follow Christ all their days.

Pastor: O God, you have established education as a good gift for all men, through which you both enlighten the minds and sanctify the lives of those who learn.

People: Bless all of our schools that they may hold fast to your revealed truth, apply their talents faithfully in your service and do all things to the glory of your name.

Pastor: O Lord, you have called us to be as newborn infants, longing for the milk of your Word, that by it we may grow into a spiritual house and a royal priesthood.

People: Bless our life of hearing, marking, reading and digesting your divine Word, that we may be the living stones who live sacrificial lives of praise to you.

Pastor: Father of glory, your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our intercession especially Debra, Roy, LuEva, Carol, Susan, Virginia, Mae, Dennis, Rosalie, Dorothy, Ruth, Warren, Dorothy, Sarah and Joe. May Christ Himself be their way of salvation, their truth in the midst of trial and their life in the midst of death.

People: Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He is with them and has prepared a place for them with you, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new.

Pastor: Almighty God, source of every blessing, we rejoice with Dave and Diane as they celebrate their 26th Wedding Anniversary, even as we celebrate with the Reinke's upon Colette's graduation from college.

People: Fill us all with a profound joy as we ponder all the blessings you bestow upon us.

Pastor: God of Abraham, your Son, our Paschal Lamb, offered the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins on the cross. By His death, He destroyed death, and by rising to life again, He proclaimed life and light to all people.

People: Bless all who receive the New Testament Passover at his altar this day, that they may do so with sure and certain faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

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

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #526 "You Are the Way; Through You Alone"

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

HYMN #467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
Then to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.

Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'r-less form, How-e'er it rave and storm.

The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.

Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He brakes through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.

He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified."

HYMN #687 "Thine Forever, God of Love"

Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!

Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend, O defend us to the end!

Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.

Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #922 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Choir Director
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Virginia Sell, Dan Vaclav
Riley Hoeg, Cassy Barry
Nancy Hoelke
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller

Congratulations to our 2014 Confirmands