



## *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*10 May 2020*

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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## We Set Our Minds on the Things of God

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!

## PREPARATION

### Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the  
 2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,  
 hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your  
 Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with  
 song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.  
 eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*John 14:6, 12-14*

- P** Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."  
**G** **"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 Declaration of Grace

*1 Peter 2:9, Micah 6:8*

- P** "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.  
**G** **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.**
- P** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.  
**G** Amen.

## Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**G** **Christ, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

## Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.  
 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  
**C** **Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

### 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.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### O Lord, Hear My Prayer

LSB 780

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
 When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O  
 Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

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### 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.**

### Alleluia Verse

*Romans 6:9, John 14:23*

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

**C** **Death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.**

**P** If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and

**C** **We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

### Holy Gospel

*John 14:1–14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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.

## By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and  
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct  
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to  
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?  
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,  
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it  
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must  
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our  
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and  
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.  
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.  
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.  
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
 In tribulation's furnace tried,  
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,  
 The Father's heart is open wide.  
 Where could I help and strength secure  
 If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
 For though I know my heart's condition,  
 I also know my Savior's voice.  
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown  
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

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## PRAYER

## By All Your Saints in Warfare

LSB 517 sts. 1, 7, 3



1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For  
 2 Praise for the first of mar - tyrs Who  
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
 saw You read - y stand To help in time of  
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For  
 tor - ment, To plead at God's right hand. Like  
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the  
 You, our suf - f'ring Sav - ior, His en - e - mies he  
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the



crown; And now they shine in glo - ry  
 blessed, With "Lord, re - ceive my spir - it,"  
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry



Re - flect - ed from Your throne.  
 His faith, - by death, con - fessed.  
 And praise to God a - lone.



## Prayer of the Church

- P** With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, let us lift up our prayers before the Lord, saying, Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for the whole Church that we may never take our calling in this world for granted, but to live humbled by God's making us into His chosen people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who lead or teach us, not so we can let them do all the ministry for us, but to take seriously in each of our callings that God has chosen us to be a royal priesthood. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for this and every nation where people are called upon to give a reason for the hope that is within them, doing this with gentleness and respect as members of the Lord's holy nation that knows no boundaries. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for us to see Your calling every day in our own lives as Your Spirit enables us to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray to rejoice with those who rejoice today, [*especially* . . .] that their joy and ours may be full. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for those who are caregivers, that they may see in their time shared with others Your calling to sustain us as we live for others. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us pray for the sick and suffering, [*especially* . . .] to receive Your promise of powerful and effective healing as well as Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Blessings and honor and power and glory be to our God forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## Thine Forever, God of Love

LSB 687



- 1 Thine for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne a - bove;  
 2 Thine for - ev - er! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!  
 3 Thine for - ev - er, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earth - ly strife.  
 4 Thine for - ev - er! Shep-herd, keep These Thy frail and trem-bling sheep;  
 5 Thine for - ev - er! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee sup - plied,



Thine for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!  
 Sav - ior, guard - ian, heav'n - ly friend, O de - fend us to the end!  
 Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.  
 Safe a - lone be - neath Thy care, Let us all Thy good - ness share.  
 All our sins by Thee for - giv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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## Benediction

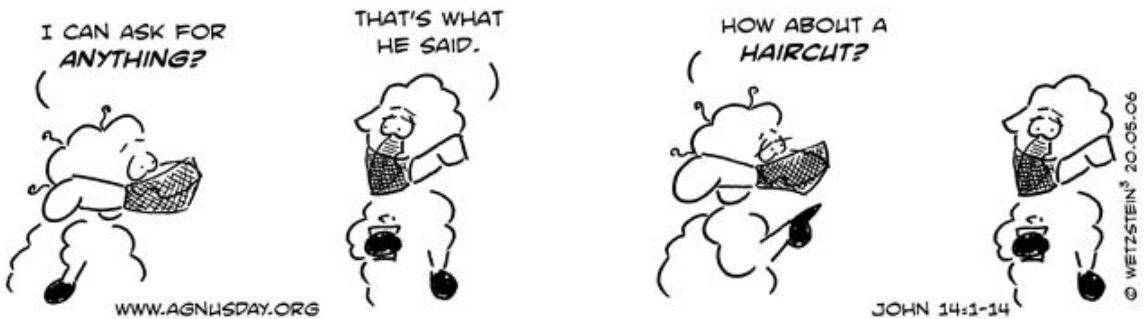
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## Announcements

**Birthdays** this week: David Brown (today!), Joseph Weisser 12<sup>th</sup>

**Anniversary** this week: Howard and Linda Jeffrey 11<sup>th</sup>

"Moms embody grace. God gives each of us an immediate friend and automatic defender even before birth. This He does—and so does she—without our earning or deserving it. As much as daughters and sons bring His blessings to their parents, so much also do mothers mediate His mercies to their little ones." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*



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