

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 10, 2020**

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending. The service, the organ music, and Pastor John's message will be routed through the church's sound system and broadcast on your car radio on FM channel 101.5. Please follow the direction of the persons assisting with parking. Once they have directed you to your parking space, please remain in your vehicle and await the beginning of the service. To follow the COVID-19 guidelines and for your protection as well as others attending **you must remain inside your vehicle for the entire service.** You can leave the vehicle running or turn it off and roll down the windows, just listen to your radio. Pastor John will lead the service from the steps of the church. Please follow the service in the bulletin.

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please show your respect with silent meditation at this time.

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

L 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

L If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

HYMN:

***“How Great Thou Art” (#532 LBW)***

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow’r through-out the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the tree;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

**GREETING**

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

**C And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy**

L 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.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their mercy and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen**

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
We praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world'  
Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the  
Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray;

**O** God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

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

**6** Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.<sup>2</sup> So the twelve summoned the <sup>[c]</sup>congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore, brethren,

select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. <sup>6</sup> And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, *including* both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. <sup>2</sup> And he said, <sup>51</sup> “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. <sup>52</sup> Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; <sup>56</sup> and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. <sup>58</sup> When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” <sup>60</sup> Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

## PSALM READING

Psalm 146

**1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

**2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,  
For there is no help in them.**

**3 When they breathe their last, they re-turn to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

**4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

**5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise forever;**

**6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.**

**7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eye of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**8 The Lord loves the righteous;  
the Lord cares for the stranger;  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

**9 The Lord shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:1-10

**2** Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, **3** if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

**4** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,”

<sup>8</sup> and,

“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

## GOSPEL VERSE

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.** (sung)

**14** “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas \*said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

<sup>7</sup> If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip \*said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus \*said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say,

‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup>Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.** (sung)

SERMON HYMN: “*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*” (294 LBW)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’  
Blood and righteousness; No merit of my  
Own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on’  
His unchanging grace; In every high and  
Stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood Sustain me  
In the raging flood; When all supports are  
Washed away, He then is all my hope and stay;  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I  
Then in him be found, Clothed in his righteousness  
Alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.



MESSAGE

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin  
Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he arose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**Offering** – If you wish to give an offering it will be received as you leave.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
Right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your  
Presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from' me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,**

**And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send Your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to Your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us  
grace!**

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

**Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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**

**HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

O God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne, Your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.  
Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your site, Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night, Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream, Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Still be our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God**

THE DOXOLOGY  
HYMN: #565 LBW

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



***Happy Mother's Day to all of the very special mothers here at  
St. John! Have a wonderful blessed day!!!***

***She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs without fear of the future.***

***Proverbs 31:25***

**Easter 5**  
**May 10, 2020**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)**



Our God forms his people into a holy nation — equipping and protecting them as they do his holy will in the world. Suffering for the Gospel is bound to come; Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is stoned for his proclamation of the Good News. In the midst of uncertainty and insecurity, Jesus continually urges his followers to trust in him; he will not leave us, but will show us “The Way.”