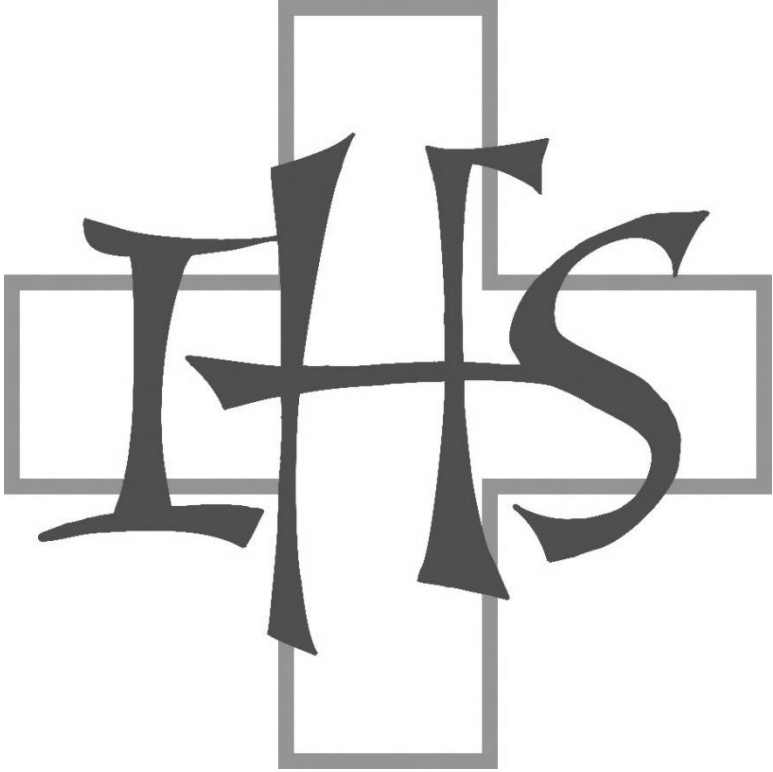


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

Order of Worship

May 7, 2023 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org

781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Introit

Psalm 149:1; Psalm 30:1-5

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

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.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Communion Theology and Practice

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is intended for those:

- who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God,
- who have faith in Jesus Christ as God the Son in the flesh and their personal Savior from sin, death, and the devil;
- who believe that they have sin that needs forgiving, hurt that needs healing, and faith that needs strengthening;
- who are committed to amending their sinful ways; and
- who believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of the risen Christ, together with the forgiveness of all their sins.

If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.

Thank you.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service

Invocation for the Easter Season

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

P This is the day the Lord has made;

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118:24

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

C Amen.

Opening Song

Awesome In This Place

Billington

Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus

VERSE



As I come in - to — Your pres - ence, —



past the gates — of praise, — in - to Your sanc - tu - ar -



y — till we're stand - ing face — to face; — I



look up - on Your coun - te - nance, I see the

continued on next page

full - ness of Your grace, and I can

on - ly bow down and say, "You are

CHORUS

awe - some in this place, Might - y God, You are

awe - some in this place, Ab - ba Fa - ther, You are

wor - thy of all praise, to You our lives we raise,

— You are awe - some in this place, Might - y God." —


Sola Gratia
GRACE ALONE

Prayer of Confession

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Victor over death and the grave. You have risen from the dead. Yet we face defeat in our sin every day.
- C** **We confess, Lord, that we so easily live only for ourselves. We have neglected to love You with all our heart and soul and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** We cannot do this on our own. We need the power of Your forgiveness.
- C** **Roll away the stone of sin and crush the hardness of our heart.**

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

- P** O Lord, hear us now, as we confess our sins to You.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**
- P** Jesus has carried our sins to His own death. His sacrifice is complete and full – it is finished! The victory is won! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Song of Praise

The Power of the Cross

Townend, Getty

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus, Verse 4, Chorus



1. Oh to see the dawn of the dark - est day.
2. Oh to see the pain writ - ten on Your face,
3. Now the day - light flees, now the ground be - neath
4. Oh to see my name writ - ten in the wounds,



Christ on the road to Cal - va - ry.
bear - ing the awe - some weight of ___ sin.
quakes as its Mak - er bows His ___ head.
for through Your suf - f'ring I am ___ free.



Tried by sin - ful men, torn and beat - en then
Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought, ev - 'ry e - vil deed
Cur - tain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live



nailed to a cross of ___ wood. 1, 2, 3. This the pow'r of the
crown - ing Your blood - stained brow. 4. This the pow'r of the
"Fin - ished!" the vic - t'ry ___ cry.
won through Your self - less ___ love!



cross. Christ be - came sin for us. Took the blame, bore the
cross. Son of God slain for us. What a love, what a



wrath. We stand for-giv-en at ___ the cross. cross.
cost. We stand for-giv-en at ___ the cross.

Psalm

Psalm 146

Spoken responsively

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,**

who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer

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.

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³Therefore, 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. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And 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. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And 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.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then 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. . . .

²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which 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, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you 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. ⁶For 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.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

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

⁹But 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. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 14:1–14

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

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

¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"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. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If 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.**

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 Song

In Christ Alone

Townend, Getty

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is
 2. In Christ a - lone! who took on
 3. There in the ground His bod - y
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in

found, He is my light, my strength, my
 flesh, Ful - ness of God in help - - - less
 lay, Light of the world by dark - - - ness
 death, This is the pow'r of Christ in

song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 babel This gift of love and right - eous -
 slain; Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 me; From life's first cry to fin - al

Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
 ness, Scorned by the ones He came to
 Day Up from the grave He rose a -
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - - - ti -

storm. What heights of love, what depths of
 save; Till on that cross as Je - sus
 gain! And as He stands in vic - to -
 ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of

peace, When fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 died, The wrath of God was sat - is -
 ry, Sin's curse has lost its grip on
 man, Can ev - er pluck me from His

ceasel My Com - for - ter, my All in
 fied For - ev - 'ry sin on Him was
 me, For I am His and He is
 hand; Till He re - turns or calls me

All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Sermon



Prayers of the Church Family and the Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Response after each petition

- P** Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your servant St. Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with boldness, forgiving those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross. When our last hour comes, let us fall asleep in Him and be born into eternal life; for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

- 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.**

Blessing

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

Song

No One Like You Lord

Mark

Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Bridge, Verse 3, Chorus, Chorus

VERSE

1. You are the stone that the
 2. When from the cross You to the
 3. Then from the earth You to the

build - ers re - ject ed,
 depths de - scend ed,
 heights as - cend ed,

a rock of ref - uge where my
 the hosts of hell con - spired to
 where You are seat - ed at Your

pride is bro - ken,
 make You cap - tive,
 Fa - ther's right hand,

a sure found - a - tion when the
 but ev - 'ry chain of sin and
 For - ev - er plead - ing for the

sand is sink - ing,
 death You've bro - ken,
 souls You've cap - tured,

CHORUS

where we are built up - on like liv - ing stones. There is
 and tri - umphed o - ver by Your might - y pow'r.
 for - ev - er watch - ing as You call us home.

no one else like You, there is no one like You, Lord;

12 There is no one else like You, Son of Man

15 and Son of God, Son of Man

17 and Son of God.

(3) 2 BRIDGE -- SOLO
I want to run the race You've set be -

fore me, e-ven to share in the suf-f'ring of the cross,

that I might gain the prize for which You

13 called me, to be with You, Son of Man

16 and Son of God, to be with You, Son of Man

20 and Son of God. *D.S. at Coda*



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7 May 2023

Readings

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–14

The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Way, the Truth and the Life

The risen Lord Jesus alone is *“the way, and the truth, and the life,”* and we come *“to the Father”* only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus *“glorified in the Son,”* and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12–14). Stephen, *“a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 6:5) and *“doing great wonders and signs among the people”* (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he *“gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God”* (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was *“rejected by men”* in the sight of God, He is *“chosen and precious”* (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father’s *“spiritual house,”* and we are built upon Him as *“living stones”* (1 Peter 2:5).



Readings

Acts 17:16–31

1 Peter 3:13–22

John 14:15–21

The Lord Jesus Comforts Us with the Preaching of His Resurrection

"The God who ... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:24–25) wants all people to seek Him that they might "feel their way toward him and find him" (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols "formed by the art and imagination of man" (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and "has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us "as orphans" (John 14:18), but He gives "another Helper," the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18). Because He "suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous" (1 Peter 3:18), we "honor Christ the Lord as holy" and are always "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks" for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism "now saves" us "as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

