

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE

The Fifth Sunday Of Easter – May 10, 2020

HYMN #661 "The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

Verse 2 speaks of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. (Acts 7:54-60)

The organ will play the hymn once; you are then welcome to listen or sing along with the lead voice.

The organ music is thanks to the technology of Lutheran Service Builder!

- 1 The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar;
Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below—
He follows in His train.
- 2 The martyr first, whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his master in the sky
And called on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue
In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for those who did the wrong—
Who follows in his train?
- 3 A glorious band, the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints—their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel,

The lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks their death to feel—
Who follows in their train?

- 4 A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice,
In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!

WELCOME / INVOCATION - OPENING PRAYER

OPENING PSALM: 35:19–25

P Let not those rejoice over me

C who are wrongfully my foes,

P and let not those wink the eye

C who hate me without cause.

P For they do not speak peace,

**C but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.**

P They open wide their mouths against me;

C they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!"

P You have seen, O LORD; be not silent!

C O LORD, be not far from me!

P Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication,

C for my cause, my God and my LORD!

P Vindicate me, O LORD, my God,

**C according to your righteousness,
and let them not rejoice over me!**

P Let them not say in their hearts,

C “Aha, our heart's desire!”

P Let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

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 Let us confess our sin to our Lord and Savior:

C Almighty God, our creator and Savior, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, we have sinned against you by our thought, word, and action. Therefore, we beg you to be merciful and grant us forgiveness of our sin through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P 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.

PSALM OF PRAISE: 31:1–5

P In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

**C let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!**

P Incline your ear to me;

C rescue me speedily!

P Be a rock of refuge for me,

C a strong fortress to save me!

P For you are my rock and my fortress;

C and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

P you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,

C for you are my refuge.

P Into your hand I commit my spirit;

C you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT 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 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.

THE FIRST READING: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60 (ESV)

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.

GRADUAL PSALM: 146

P Praise the LORD!

C Praise the LORD, O my soul!

P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

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

P Put not your trust in princes,

C in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

P When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

C on that very day his plans perish.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P who made heaven and earth,
C the sea, and all that is in them,

P who keeps faith forever;
**C who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

P The LORD sets the prisoners free;
C the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

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

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

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

THE EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:2–10 (ESV)

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1–14 (ESV)

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 Lord.

MESSAGE

Rev. Dennis Wenzholz

"Seeing The Vision of Stephen"

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

PRAYERS

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.

CLOSING PSALM: 145:1–13

P I will extol you, my God and King,

C and bless your name forever and ever.

P Every day I will bless you

C and praise your name forever and ever.

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

C and his greatness is unsearchable.

P One generation shall commend your works to another,
C and shall declare your mighty acts.

P On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
C and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

P They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
C and I will declare your greatness.

P They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant
goodness
C and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

P The LORD is gracious and merciful,
C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P The LORD is good to all,
C and his mercy is over all that he has made.

P All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
C and all your saints shall bless you!

P They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
C and tell of your power,

P to make known to the children of man your mighty
deeds,
C and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

P Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
**C and your dominion endures throughout all
generations.**

P [The LORD is faithful in all his words
C and kind in all his works.]

BENEDICAMUS

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.