



WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on mute** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning (CARDS ON BACK TABLE). It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

THE MEANING OF THE TWO PICTURES IN THE BULLETIN: The two pictures at the top of the bulletin are the church's logo and the LCMC logo (Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ). The church's logo is the descent of the Holy Spirit into 'Our Savior' at the time of His Baptism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Bible Study meets at the church. Everyone welcome!!!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Meets once a month. Please see Pastor's wife, Peggie Sue, for information.

DEDICATION OF OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH: MAY 21ST, REV. DONALD FRANCIS, PREACHER

We Serve Today:

Reader: Peggie Sue Dygert

Offering: Jeff Cisco, David Colburn

Communion: Bev Cisco, Fran Thibideau,

Greeter: Jeff Cisco

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SERVICE OF THE WORD: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME: *Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

Pastor: We begin our worship today in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

People: **AMEN**

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER - (*congregational responses*) in **BOLD**

Pastor: Lord, we approach Your altar with love for You and our appreciation for the price You paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to Your sacrifice. For that, Dear Lord, we make our confession to You this day.

1 John 1:8-9

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 the things 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!

ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus on His cross, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by

the authority of Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: R57 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name vs 1,4,6

GATHERING LITANY – (responsive in bold)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,

For in Your wisdom You have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

We bless You and praise Your Holy Name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless You and praise Your Holy name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless You and praise Your Holy name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We bless You and praise Your Holy name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless You and praise Your loving grace.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,

For in Your wisdom You have formed us.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison):

Almighty God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of your sheep, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may know the voice of our Shepherd and follow him that sin and death may never pluck us out of your hand, Alleluia.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Alleluia and Amen.

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

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists^[a] arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2** 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. **3** Therefore, brothers,^[b] pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." **5** 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. **6** These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 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.

Stephen Is Seized

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

Stephen's Speech

7 ² And Stephen said:

51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. **52** Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, **53** you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.
⁵⁵ 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. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together^[b] at him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰
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.

READING OF THE PSALM: Psalm 146 ESV (Responsive)

Put Not Your Trust in Princes

146 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

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

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

3 Put not your trust in princes,

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

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

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

6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;

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

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

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

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

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

Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE READING: 1st Peter 2:2-10 ESV (Responsive)

A Living Stone and a Holy People

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

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

7 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,”^[a]

8 and

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

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

9 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. ¹⁰ **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.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 14:1-14 ESV (*Please stand for the Gospel reading*)

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

14 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ² 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?^[b] ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Believe 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. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[e] anything in my name, I will do it.

SERMON: 'Again and Again without End' Rev. Donald Francis

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:2*

C: Amen

SERMON HYMN: R362 Blessed Assurance

OFFERING

Rite of Friendship:

P. The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always.

C. And Also With you.

P. We now have the opportunity to share back with the Lord a little of the bounty He has shared with us.

SONG FOR MEDITATION – Just As I Am – Dean Carson

As the offering is brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.

Doxology:

Praise God, From Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Doxology, written in England for Protestant Churches in 1674.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS: Let us pray: *(Prayer Response)* Lord in your Mercy: **You hear our prayers!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: KJV

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory,
forever and forever. Amen**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1st Corinthians 11:23-25 (ESV)*

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said; "Take and eat; this is My body, given for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to the them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1st Corinthians 11:26*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

THE DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: R167 – The Old Rugged Cross

THE AARONIC BENEDICTION: Numbers 6: 24-26

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH:

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me!

THE DISMISSAL P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord! C. Thanks be to God!!