

~ Turning Hearts to Christ Through Love ~  
**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**  
801 E. Main • Bishop, TX 78343

PASTOR: Rev. Matthew Ulmer

ORGANIST: Allison Ulmer

**Fifth of Sunday of Easter-Mother's Day**

**May 10, 2020**

**Scenes of God at Work**

With the comforting words of our Savior, spoken before His passion and death, and now spoken in our ears as He is risen from death, our Lord today increases our confidence in the truth of our new righteousness through the continued forgiveness of our sins. In this Easter faith, we are more than prepared to face the challenges of living now as strangers and foreigners in this world, that is, as a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. Those challenges may begin simply in our daily living but also may increase as they have in our day with increasing confusion in the public square over issues such as sexual identity and even marriage. Ultimately, as we hear of St. Stephen, the first martyr for the faith, the confession of this faith has become a life or death issue for many even in our own day. Regardless of the intensity of the good fight of the faith, we see our Savior Jesus come to deliver us. We see Him in the water of Baptism with His Word, in the body and blood we share at His command, in the authoritative and comforting word of Holy Absolution, and in His Word preached, as we wait to see Him come to "take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3). Let us join all creation in praise to our saving Lord.

PRESERVICE SONG: "Lift High The Name Of Jesus"

THE BELL



CANDLES



WELCOME

✠ ✠ ✠ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** ✠ ✠ ✠

*(Order of service: Divine Service—Setting One, page 151 LSB)*

OPENING HYMN: "Christ The Eternal Lord"

#829

♪ **Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.**

♪ **Christ the unchanging Word To ev'ry passing age,  
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture's page;  
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,  
Within Your word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.**

♪ **Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won For ev'ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.**

♪ **Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day,  
Our Morning Star in splendour bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth You give To servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief journey ends.**

♪ **Christ the ascended King Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven's throne  
Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.**

INVOCATION:

(P:) In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(C:) **AMEN.**

EXHORTATION:

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.**

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

CONFESSION:

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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.**

ABSOLUTION:

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. **AMEN.**

✠ ✠ ✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠ ✠ ✠

(Order of service: Divine Service—Setting Four, page 203 LSB)

INTROIT

Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 149:1

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.**

**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.**

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
**his praise in the assembly of the godly!**

KYRIE: Lord, Have Mercy

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**B** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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

*f* **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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.

*f* **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

*f* **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

*f* **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: Glory to God in the Highest

*f* 1) **To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Good will from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

*f* 2) **To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

*f* 3) **For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION:

The Lord be with you.  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

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. **AMEN.** [ Sit ]

OLD TESTAMENT 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. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, "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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

GRADUAL:

Christ has risen from the dead.  
**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,**  
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
**he has put all things under his feet.**

EPISTLE

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.

*1 Peter 2:2–10*

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*[ Stand ]*

ALLELUIA AND VERSE:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
These things are written that you may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

*John 14:1-14* — [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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

APOSTLES' CREED:

**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. [ Sit ]**

SERMON HYMN: "In Christ Alone "

#740

*♫ In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*♪* In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

*♪* There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

*♪* No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

SERMON: "The Preciousness Of Faith"

TEXT: ACTS 6: 1-9; 7:2A, 51-60

HYMN: "Lead Me Guide Me "

#721

*♪* Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*♪* I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r  
To help me over my weakest hour  
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

*♪* Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

*♪* I am lost if You take Your hand from me,  
I am blind without Thy light to see.  
Lord, always let me Thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **Refrain**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Remember in prayer—

Mia Balko - Robert Capeheart - Betty Collier - Chuck Fredrikson - Blake Gibson - Mark Holly - Morris Klare - Russell Klare - Evelyn Loewe - Virginia Loewe - Michael Lyons - Van Melton - Kenneth Parker - Cyndee Remmert - Lane Rex - Hailey Russell - John Salinas - Ann Shipley - Shane Small - Michael Spieglehour - Helen Witzsche - Judy Wood - Buddy Jones - Nancy Kieschnick - Family & Friends of Carol Ritchie - Our Military & their Families - Our Nation - Business Owners - Rain

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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING COLLECT:

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

BENEDICAMUS:

Let us bless the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

BENEDICTION:

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.

**AMEN.**

[ Sit ]

*♬ Precious Lord, take my hand*

*Lead me on, let me stand*

*I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone*

*Through the storm, through the night*

*Lead me on to the light*

*Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*♬ When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near*

*When my light is almost gone*

*Hear my cry, hear my call*

*Hold my hand lest I fall*

*Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*♬ When the darkness appears and the night draws near*

*And the day is past and gone*

*At the river I stand*

*Guide my feet, hold my hand*

*Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

SILENT PRAYER:



Acknowledgments

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Happy  
Mother's  
Day!