

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

MAY 7, 2023

9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: CARSON

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *On This Day, The First Of Days: #47*

1. On this day, the first of days, God the Father's Name we praise, who, creation's Lord and spring, did the world from darkness bring.

2. On this day the eternal Son over death his triumph won; on this day the Spirit came with his gifts of living flame.

3. Maker, who didst fashion me image of thyself to be, fill me with thy love divine, let my every thought be thine.

WELCOME: Rev. Beverly Collinsworth

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone: And Blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Everyone: Come let us sing to the Lord: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hands are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land. Come let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would harken to his voice!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us Pray:

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

People: **Amen**

LESSONS: *Please be seated for the readings of the lessons.*

1st LESSON: **Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: Here ends the reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Response: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *Let us read it responsively by full verse:*

Reader: In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Response: Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Reader: Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your
Name, lead me and guide me.

**Response: Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for
me, for you are my tower of strength.**

Reader: Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed
me, O LORD, O God of truth.

**Response: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand
of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

Reader: Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your
loving-kindness save me.

Reader: Here ends the reading of Psalm 31

Response: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:2-10

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

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual

sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious: and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

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, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts 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.

Reader: Here ends our reading from Paul’s letter to Peter.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: *Praise The Lord Through Every Nation: #484*

1. Praise the Lord through every nation; his holy arm hath wrought salvation; exalt him on his Father's throne.

Praise your King, ye Christian legions, who now prepares in heavenly regions unfailing mansions for his own: with voice and minstrelsy extol his majesty: Alleluia!

His praise shall sound all nature round, and hymns on every tongue abound.

2. Jesus, Lord, our Captain glorious, o'er sin, and death, and hell victorious, wisdom and might to thee belong: we confess, proclaim, adore thee; we bow the knee, we fall before thee; thy love henceforth shall be our song.

*The cross meanwhile we bear, the crown ere-long to wear: Alleluia!
Thy reign extend world without end; let praise from all to thee ascend.*

Priest: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. John.

Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.

John 14:1-14

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. 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, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.

SERMON:

SERMON RESPONSE: CARSON

NICENE CREED

Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

Everyone: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Priest/Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the whole world.

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

Response: *That we all may be one.*

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

Response: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

Response: *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

Response: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

Response: *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest.

Response: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
Response: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
especially: **Alex, Diane, Nana Jo, Patricia K., Terrie, Judy, Scott, Fr. John, Alec, Roseann, David, Michael, Steve, Sue and Donna:**

Response: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Reader: We pray for the men and women serving in our armed forces,
especially: **Fr. Tony, Mitchell, Emily, Chris and Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron, the 983rd, Army Combat Engineer Battalion and the 393rd Air Force Bomb Squadron.**

Response: Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.

Reader: In the communion of St. Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

Response: To thee, O Lord our God.

Priest/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and one another:

Everyone: Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY: CARSON

Music: *While the Table is Set*

COMMUNION:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you,

the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Everyone: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart.

Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table.

In light of the presence still of the Covid virus, I am asking you to receive communion by intinction only. Intinction is the dipping of the wafer into the chalice instead of drinking from the chalice.

Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

MUSIC: *(sing during communion)*

1. As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that Feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Priest: Let us Pray:

Everyone: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually with the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

People: Amen

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you with favor and bring you peace.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation*: #518

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the Church in one; holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.

2. All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high, in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody; God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today; with thy wonted lovingkindness hear thy servants as they pray, and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: CARSON

LEM/Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THANKS: Rev. Beverly Collinsworth

ANNOUNCEMENTS: