



May 7, 2023  
Fifth Sunday after Easter  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Hutchinson, MN

6:30pm, 8:30am HYMN 646 (Maroon): Church of God, Elect and Glorious  
10:30am SONG: Waymaker

#### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 146*)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD all my life;**

**I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> **When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

<sup>6</sup> **He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.**

<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets prisoners free,**

<sup>8</sup> **the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.  
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

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.**

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.**

**HYMN 712 (Maroon): Seek Ye First**

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*Readers: 6:30pm Kevin Heikes; 8:30am Nona Anderson; 10:30am Anita Miller*

**First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.<sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them<sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.<sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

<sup>2</sup> To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

<sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!<sup>52</sup> Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—<sup>53</sup> you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.<sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.<sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-10**

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house<sup>[a]</sup> to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

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

<sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**▲ GOSPEL ALLELUIA**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. (repeat)**

**The stone which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone.**

**The stone which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone.**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. (repeat)**

**10:30am Caribbean Hallelujah**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

**Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE 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.

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN 861 (Maroon): Christ Be My Leader**

**SERMON** "I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life" Pastor Meyer

#### **PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS**

#### **PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**6:30pm, 8:30am SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Page 198 Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

**HYMN 537 (Maroon): Beautiful Savior**

**HYMN 570 (Maroon): Just As I Am**

**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.**

**6:30pm, 8:30am HYMN 837 (Maroon): Lift High the Cross, Verses 1-4**

**10:30am Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**