

FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Red Book" 74 Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy
Lord God Almighty; And we lift our hearts before You as a
Token of our love, Holy, holy, holy holy.

Gracious Father, Gracious Father, We're so blest to be Your
Children, Gracious Father; And we lift our heads before You as a
Token of our love, Gracious Father, Gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus, We're so glad that You've redeemed
Us, Precious Jesus; And we lift our hands before You as a
Token of our love, Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts a
New, Holy Spirit; And we lift our voice before You as a
Token of our love, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, And we lift our hearts before You as a
Token of our love, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

OPENING BLESSING

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: Jesus teaches in today's lesson that he is the way to the Father. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". As we begin our worship it is important that we first come to the realization that, as sinners, we search for truth outside of Jesus and his teaching.

Silence for Reflection

P: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

C: Lord, we confess our sin, You have promised to provide for all of our needs, and yet we mistrust Your promise. We know the futility of our own ambitions and our inability to do that which we desire. Today we need to recognize the sin within us, and ask that you would forgive us. Give us a change of heart that we may look for truth from You. Forgive us our sin and cleanse us so that we can be pleasing in Your sight and ministers in Your service.

P: Our God is a tomorrow God, who knows our past and knows where we are headed. We trust a God who knows our needs and desires each of us come daily in prayer. As we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive our sin and make us clean from all unrighteousness. God always promises us something better, because of the miracle of forgiveness and love. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 225 (twice through) I Love You, Lord

I love You, Lord
and I lift my voice
to worship You
o my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
may it be a sweet, sweet sound
in Your ear.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Stephen speaks the truth and is then martyred.

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 your fathers not 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.

Epistle: I Peter 2:2-10

We are God's people: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.....

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into 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.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

Jesus shows us the way to the Father

“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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Brad Hellesto

SERMON HYMN “Green Book” 464

You Are the Way

You are the way; through you alone can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, has God revealed his heart, his will, his mind.

You are the truth; your Word alone true wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your con-qu’ring arm;
And those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

SERMON

“Changing World, Unchanging Truth”

APOSTLE’S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And was born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

OFFERING (We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Green Book” 518 Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!

“Red Book” 47

Freely, Freely

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name,
I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.
He said, “Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.”

All pow’r is giv’n in Jesus’ name,
In earth and heav’n in Jesus’ name
And in Jesus’ name I come to you
To share His pow’r as He told me to.
He said, “Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.”

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.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.