



CLASSIC SERVICE

OCTOBER 10, 2021 • 8:30 AM • "I AM SERIES 5" • TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses. **Families**, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering baskets.

As We Gather

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6) The Roman world worshiped many gods and numerous official religions. By proclaiming Jesus as the only way, truth, and life, the Church set itself apart. It took Jesus' personal revelation to the disciples to get them to see who He was. After Easter, Stephen and those who would follow him, witnessed to our Lord not only with their words, but with their very lives. And now, like the arrows on a one-way street, we witness to Jesus, the only way to the Father.

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! *Refrain*

REFRAIN Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center, Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

5 City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 146:1–2, 5

P Praise the LORD!

C **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

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

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

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.

P We give thanks, Lord Jesus, for apostles and martyrs who have gone before us.

C We confess that we have not always made a clear witness to the salvation You won for us in Your death and resurrection. Forgive us, and give us opportunities to witness to You, the way, the truth, and the life.

P We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You graciously call us Your holy nation, Your royal priesthood.

C We confess that in our life and conduct we have too often reflected the world around us rather than our membership in the Body of Christ. Forgive us, and strengthen us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

P We give thanks, O Holy Spirit, that You have worked faith in our hearts so that we may approach the throne of grace with every petition.

C We confess that too often we seek to bend Your will to ours, failing to trust You not only for the place You have prepared for us in eternity, but also for that which is best for us today. Forgive us, and open our hearts to receive Your answers, which are always better than our prayers.

P God has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. You are His own people, thanks to the grace and mercy that is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

588 Jesus Loves Me



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be - long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON *(The first martyr is executed.)*

Acts 6:8; 7:2, 51-60

^{6,8} And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ^{7:2} 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, . . . 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." 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 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

861 Christ Be My Leader

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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EPISTLE *(You are living stones in God's house.)*

1 Peter 2:2-10

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," 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

VERSE

John 14:23

P Alleluia. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word,

C and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL (*Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.*)

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; 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? 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." 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. 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 anything in my name, I will do it.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated - Children dismissed for Children's Church (CC)

MESSAGE HYMN

687 *Thine Forever, God of Love*



1 Thine for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne a - bove;
2 Thine for - ev - er! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
3 Thine for - ev - er, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earth - ly strife.
5 Thine for - ev - er! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee sup - plied,



Thine for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!
Sav - ior, guard - ian, heav'n - ly friend, O de - fend us to the end!
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
All our sins by Thee for - giv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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MESSAGE

Please Stand

RESPONSE

956 *Create in Me*

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!) Children return from CC.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Prayer response after each petition:*

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

BENEDICTION

Acts 7, John 14:6, Numbers 6:24-26

P As Stephen gave bold witness and declared Jesus to be both Son of Man and Son of God, season our witness with such peace and confidence, for our faith is made firm in Jesus saying,

C "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

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DISMISSAL

Into the world, walking in the way of Christ...

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor Rev. Jason Hoerth
Organist Carol Trumbo
Children's Msg. Hailey Tanczer

Elder Paul Tomes
Reader Elizabeth Hoffmann
Acolyte Isabelle Ripak



Acknowledgments

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