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PRAISE ABLAZE

OCTOBER 10, 2021 • 11:00AM

"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.

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Acknowledgments

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Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

Opening Worship

*We Believe
Forever Reign*

Call to Worship

Opening Sentences / Confession and Absolution

Children's Message

God's Word *(see opposite or screens or Bibles)*

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

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

(Children dismissed for Children's Church (CC))

What We Believe

The Apostles' Creed

Today's Message

Offering

(Thanks for your support of God's mission here – Children return from CC.)

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Song

The Saving One

**Words of Our Lord/
Reception/ Sending Prayer**

Dismissal

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THE FIRST LESSON

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

(The first martyr is executed.)

^{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

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

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

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

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EPISTLE (cont.)

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

(Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.)

"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.

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

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|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Message..... | Pastor Jason Hoerth | Elder..... | Glen Brueggemeier |
| Cont. Worship Ldr. | Dyann Cooper | Acolyte..... | Rylie Wiedeman |
| Children's Message..... | Chris Graves, DCE | Audio..... | Greg Fenner |
| Reader | Marla St. Martin | | |



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