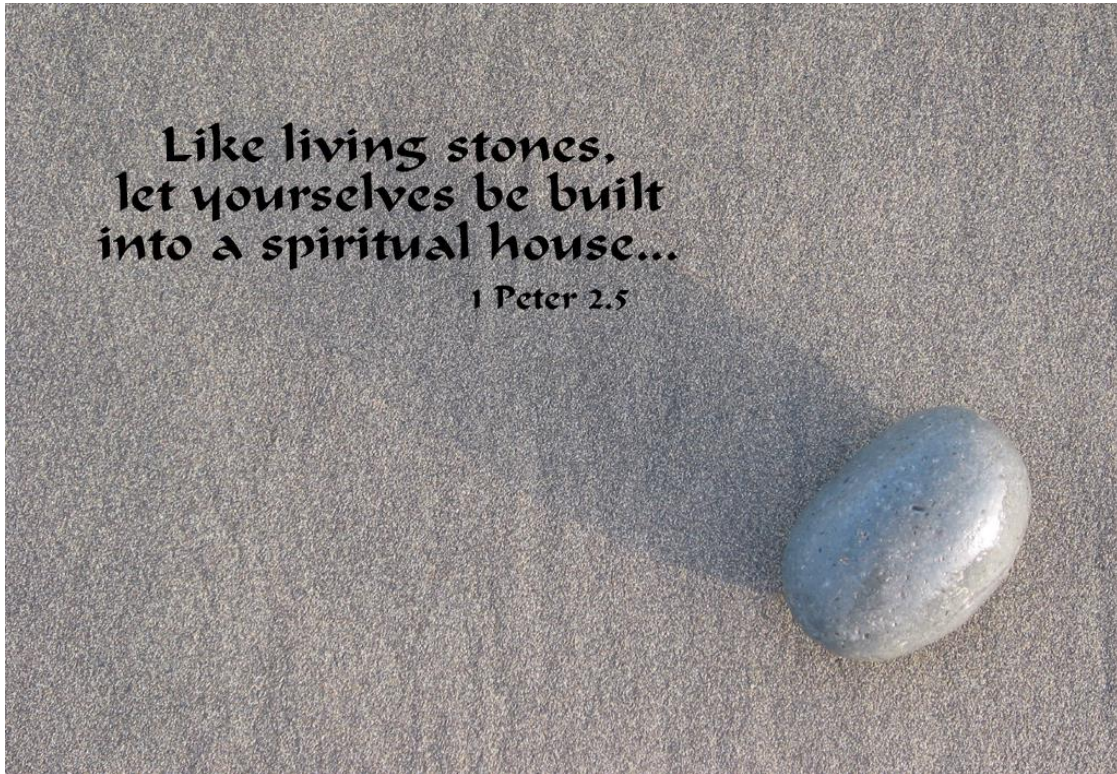


**Sunday, May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Our Savior Lutheran Church**



Thought: Who are we in this world that builds itself on reputation and thinking that we can build ourselves up by standing upon our own talents and understandings in how we live? What we miss is our living partnership with Jesus who has taught us a different way. Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Where should we place our trust? 1 Peter 2:4 *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...*

What building material are you using?

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: Come to the Lord, a living stone, chosen and precious in God's sight.

C: We are living stones, being built into a spiritual house.

A: Christ is the cornerstone, chosen and precious in God's sight.

C: Whoever believes in the Lord will never be put to shame.

A: We are a chosen race, a holy nation, God's own people.

C: Let us proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord who called us out of darkness.

A: Let us live, then, in the marvelous light of God's love and mercy.

C: Come, let us worship the Lord!

Gathering Hymn – "Bless Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW #656

https://youtu.be/N_AYrIHRm5c

by Darby Hughs

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Gracious God, we come to you in hope and love, confessing our need for mercy. We have not loved and honored you with our lives; you are not always first in our hearts.

A time of silence for reflection

P: Our loyalty is pulled in many directions.

C: We live the days and hours unaware of your teaching presence. Yet your love is steadfast and true, even when ours is not.

You do not forsake us in our weakness and sin. Holy God, grant us mercy. Renew our hearts and minds with the joy of being your grace and forgiven people.

P: United with Christ, may we live in the freedom of your love, for we ask this in Christ's name and by his authority, our sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “In Christ There Is No East or West” ELW #650

<https://youtu.be/GG8hzY1OoM4>

by Chris Brunelle

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

C: Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

First reading – Acts 7:55-60

The martyrdom of Stephen

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame

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

²**Incline your ear to me, make haste to deliver me.**

³Be 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.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, GOD of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

Second reading – 1 Peter 2:2-10
<https://youtu.be/NAMrcG7N7aA>

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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.

⁶For 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."⁷To 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,"⁸and "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."⁹But 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.¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 14:1-14

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me

The Holy Gospel According to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'?

¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.
Childrens Sermon**

<https://youtu.be/FgIfwc08SYE>

Homily – “Living Stones”

https://youtu.be/nWQyR0_Xuo8

Hymn of the Day – “All Are Welcome” ELW 641

<https://youtu.be/vHntPLm89z4>

by Marty Haugen

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us (*especially*). Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Offering and Offertory Music

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

ELW #674

Offertory Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

C: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts... ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.

C: By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction – Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “The Church’s One Foundation” ELW #654 Vss. 1-2 & 4-5

<https://youtu.be/jotNbcFelX4>
by Northern Baptist Association

Dismissal

A: As living stones, fitted together by God’s Spirit, let us go to help others find that foundation in Christ.

C: **We go to serve!**

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

