

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Faith Lutheran Church
Christ Is Our Cornerstone
May 7, 2023



As We Gather: We continue to focus our attention on Jesus' resurrection. We see that Jesus is the stone that was rejected by the religious leaders. He was crucified and killed by them. Yet God raised Jesus from the dead, making Him the cornerstone, the foundational stone upon which all the other stones in the building are aligned and built. As we build upon the foundation and cornerstone of Jesus, we are conformed and aligned to Him.

PREPARATION

Invocation

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

C Amen.

God's Kids Opening: [God's kids Song "Christ Be My Leader", Message, Prayer]

Christ Be My Leader #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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Opening Sentences

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- P** Christ is our cornerstone;
- C** on Him alone we build.

- P** In Him we are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.
- C** We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore as Your newborn, chosen, priestly people, on account of Jesus. Amen.

P Though Jesus Christ was rejected and killed, God raised Him from the dead, 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.

C **Amen. We are forgiven. We are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.**

WORD

Introit

Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

C **I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

P O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

C **O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

C **For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Kyrie

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Hymn of Praise Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!

2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,

△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.

Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.

Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.

Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.

Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.

Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867. Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

Grant that we may love what You have commanded and

desire what You promise, that among the many changes of

this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns

with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60 (Stephen remains faithful in the midst of death.)

¹Now 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. ²And 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. ³Therefore, 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. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And 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. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And 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.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then 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. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens

opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And 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* (Built on Jesus, we are a chosen people.)

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

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you 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. ⁶For 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.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and

“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

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, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies 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.

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.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus 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’? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, 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. ¹³Whatever you ask in

my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14If 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.

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.

Sermon Hymn Christ Is Our Cornerstone #912



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.

Sermon “In my Father’s house are many rooms” - John 14:1-6

Offering and Hymn Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing #584

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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Prayer of the Church

Incorporating LSB 912:1

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we bring before You all those who have built their lives on something other than You. We pray that You

would draw them to Yourself that they may build on a sure foundation. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all those who have trouble in this world, including for the homeless, the poor, the lonely, the unemployed, those who are abused, and those who are taken advantage of. Lead each of these to steadier situations, so that their lives may evermore be built on You. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope that in Your Father's house are many rooms, and You have gone to prepare a place for us. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all those struggling with relationship issues, whether that is friendships, family dynamics, marital struggles, or anything else. We pray that You would bring reconciliation in the midst of such struggle. Remind Your people that they are chosen and holy and called to reflect Your forgiveness. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for our nation and its leaders. For our Prime Minister and his staff, for our Parliament and all lawmakers, for the Supreme Court and all judges, we pray that You would shine Your wisdom upon these, Your servants. Guide them to perform their tasks with justice and equity. Christ is our cornerstone,

C on Him alone we build.

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C** **on Him alone we build.**

Other Petitions. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Benediction

- P** Now may the Lord hold you in the power of the Holy Spirit, keeping you always in the grace and peace won for us all by Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless you and lift you up in the freedom of divine grace and love; in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn The Church's One Foundation #644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76. Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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