

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church | 95 W. State St, Coldwater, MI 49036
www.stpaulcoldwater.com | 517-278-8061 | Facebook: @StPaulColdwater

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS

We're glad you're here! All in attendance are asked to please complete the **CONNECT** card located in the pew rack and read the statement concerning the reception of the Lord's Supper found on the **WORSHIP** card. Feel free to ask an usher for help or directions.

Prayer cards and **CONNECT** cards will be picked up by the ushers during the sermon hymn.



NURSERY

Our nursery is located right past the double doors in the preschool wing on the right, which is across the hall from the coat room (to your right as you exit the Sanctuary). The Sanctuary audio is provided in that room, so you won't miss a thing.

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus proclaimed Himself as “the Way, the Truth and the Life,” He was telling His disciples and each of us that He came to “orient” us in this upside-down, mixed-up world of ours. The question of Thomas in our Gospel is a commonly asked question, “Lord, we don't know where You are going; we don't know where we should go or what we should be doing, so how can we possibly know the way? And it was then that Jesus gave us a reference point to orient us, to give us direction and to be our constant magnetic north, no matter where we are in life. The word “orient” literally means, “to position oneself with respect to one specific reference point.” The specific reference point that our God gave to us was His Son, the Living Word. The reason we need Jesus to orient us in this world is that sin, the world and our flesh, and the working of the devil are seeking with all their might to disorient us. God needs us to be able to share His orienting, Living Word in this disorienting world so that people will know the Way and so they will find their way home to Him. By this Word, you have been made a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. By this Word, the stormy sea is calmed, the sick healed, the dead are raised, the hungry fed, the leprous made clean, the sinful forgiven. How can we not share this Word, Jesus, who is our HOME, our WAY - and do it today with someone who has just lost their way? There's NO WAY but YAHWEH!

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting Four

We will be following the Divine Service as provided beginning on page 203 of the *Lutheran Service Book*, which can be found in the pew racks in front of you. Hymn numbers are provided in our “ORDER of WORSHIP” below. Readings have been inserted below for your convenience. Everything else can be found in the *Lutheran Service Book*.



ORDER of WORSHIP

CONFESSION *and* ABSOLUTION

Page 203

SERVICE *of the* WORD

Page 204

ENTRANCE HYMN: “Sing Praise to God the Highest Good”

LSB 819

KYRIE (*follow the instructions of the leader*)

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS: “Glory to God in the Highest”

Page 204

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

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 not your fathers 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 146 *Found in front of LSB. Chanted responsively following leader.*

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2:2–10

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

ALLELUIA and VERSE

Page 205

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

A 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. 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord:

C Praise to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES’ CREED

Page 207

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

LSB 646

During Hymn of the Day the Ushers will come to collect the PRAYER and CONNECT cards. Now is a great opportunity to make sure you are ready for that.

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

LSB 956

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(followed by passing of the peace)

SERVICE *of the* SACRAMENT

Page 208

We welcome to the table of the Lord’s Supper all those who believe and confess alongside this family the teachings of the Lutheran Church. For more on this, refer to the Worship card, located in each pew rack.

DISTRIBUTION

SONGS: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

LSB 633

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

LSB 722

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

LSB 687

NUNC DIMITTIS: “Song of Simeon”

Page 211

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Page 212 (middle column)

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

Page 212

CLOSING HYMN: “Now Thank We All Our God”

LSB 895

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