

# Prelude

## Announcements

### Opening Hymn



1 When Ste-phen, full of power and grace, went forth through-out the  
2 When Ste-phen preached a - gainst the laws and by those laws was  
3 When Ste-phen, young and doomed to die, fell crushed be - neath the  
4 Let me, O Lord, thy cause de - fend, a knight with - out a



land, he bore no shield be - fore his face, no  
tried, he had no friend to plead his cause, no  
stones, he had no curse nor venge - ful cry for  
sword; no shield I ask, no faith - ful friend, no



wea - pon in his hand; but on - ly in his  
spokes - man at his side; but on - ly in his  
those who broke his bones; but on - ly in his  
venge - ance, no re - ward; but on - ly in my



heart a flame and on his lips a sword where -  
heart a flame and on his eyes a light where -  
heart a flame and on his lips a prayer that  
heart a flame and in my soul a dream, so



with he smote and o - ver - came the foe-men of the Lord.  
with God's day - break to pro - claim and rend the veils of night.  
God, in sweet for - give-ness' name, should un - der-stand and spare.  
that the stones of earth - ly shame a jew-eled crown may seem.

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Music: *Salvation*, melody from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; harm. *Songs for Liturgy and More Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1971

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Venite**

sung by a cantor

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

## **The First Lesson**

Lector: A Reading from Acts

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

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

### ***In te, Domine, speravi***

1 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.

3 Be 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.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.

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

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."

## **The Second Lesson**

Lector: A Reading from First Peter

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

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, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For 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.”

To 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”,

and

“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.

But 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.

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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Hymn



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

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## The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According To John

People: Glory to You, O Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus 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’? 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe 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. Very 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Deacon: The Gospel of Our Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

## The Homily

### 3 Questions:

- What vision for the future of the world excites your imagination?
- How will your yearning lead you to love and be healed in that world?
- How, and who, will you serve in that world?

## **The 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 again 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.

## Hymn

1 I know not where the road will lead I fol - low day by day,  
2 And some I love have reached the end, but some with me may stay,  
3 The count-less hosts lead on be-fore, I must not fear nor stray;

or where it ends: I on - ly know I walk the King's high - way.  
their faith and hope still guid - ing me, I walk the King's high - way.  
with them, the pil - grims of the faith, I walk the King's high - way.

I know not if the way is long, and no one else can say;  
The way is truth, the way is love, for light and strength I pray,  
Through light and dark the road leads on till dawns the end - less day,

but rough or smooth, up hill or down, I walk the King's high - way.  
and through the years of life, to God I walk the King's high - way.  
when I shall know why in this life I walk the King's high - way.

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## The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: In joy and hope let us pray to God. That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may be granted humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That we may help provide for those who lack food, work or shelter we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That war and famine may cease throughout the world, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the light and presence of divinity may be revealed to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That, according to the promise, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That the fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon the people, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, we pray to God.

People: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: God, you are beyond our understanding, yet you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Please join us for **Coffee Hour Questions: Growing as Disciples from Our Homes** by following this link:*

<https://zoom.us/j/93054661025?pwd=aEhtdkszYzRveVhVSUVOb2Y0VHhMUT09>