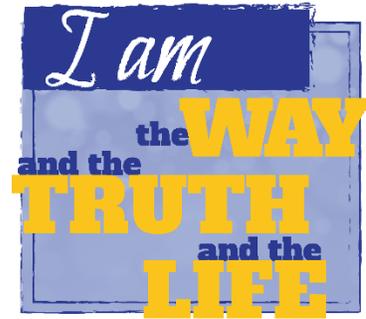


FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Scenes of God at Work

May 10, 2020



AS WE GATHER

With the comforting words of our Savior, spoken before His passion and death, and now spoken in our ears as He is risen from death, our Lord today increases our confidence in the truth of our new righteousness through the continued forgiveness of our sins. In this Easter faith, we are more than prepared to face the challenges of living now as strangers and foreigners in this world, that is, as a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. Those challenges may begin simply in our daily living but also may increase as they have in our day with increasing confusion in the public square over issues such as sexual identity and even marriage. Ultimately, as we hear of St. Stephen, the first martyr for the faith, the confession of this faith has become a life or death issue for many even in our own day. Regardless of the intensity of the good fight of the faith, we see our Savior Jesus come to deliver us. We see Him in the water of Baptism with His Word, in the body and blood we share at His command, in the authoritative and comforting word of Holy Absolution, and in His Word preached, as we wait to see Him come to "take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3). Let us join all creation in praise to our saving Lord.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

SONG "All of Creation"

Verse 1

Separated, until the veil was torn,
The moment that hope was born, ..and guilt was pardoned once and for all.

Verse 2

Captivated, but no longer bound by chains,
Left at an empty grave, ..the sinner and the sacred resolved.

Chorus

And all of creation, sing with me now, lift up your voice and lay your burden down;

And all of creation, sing with me now, fill up the heavens, let His glory resound.

Verse 3

When time has faded, and we see Him face to face,
Every doubt erased ... forever we will worship the King.

Chorus

And all of creation, sing with me now, lift up your voice and lay your burden down;

And all of creation, sing with me now, fill up the heavens, let His glory resound.

Bridge

Oh..... Oh.....

The reason we breathe is to sing of His glory;

And for all He has done, praise the Father, praise the Son, .. and the Spirit in One.

Chorus

And all of creation, sing with me now, lift up your voice and lay your burden down;

And all of creation, sing with me now, fill up the heavens, let His glory resound.

Ending Chorus

And all of creation, sing with me now, lift up your voice and lay your burden down;

And all of creation, sing with me now, ...

Let His glory resound. And ev-'ry knee will bow, ...

Oh and every tongue, praise the Father, praise the Son, and the Spirit in One.

Words and music by Bart Millard, Dan Muckala, Brown Bannister, Jim Bryson, Nahan Cochran, Barry Graul, Mike Scheuchzer and Robby Shaffer

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia! (*LSB 464:3*)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Even as we glory in the gift of eternal life, in that hope we spend our days in joyful repentance and faith. Let us confess our sin, the sin that still so easily besets us, and receive the full forgiveness our Lord daily provides for us.

People: **Lord God, though the strife is over, the battle done, and now is the victor's triumph won, sin still hangs on. We are Your baptized people. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us into our Easter joy.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SONG "My Chains Are Gone"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free. My God my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, Amazing Grace.

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me. His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free. My God my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, Amazing Grace.

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free. My God my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, Amazing Grace.

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.

John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio©2006Woshiptogether.com

SONG "Blessed Be Your Name"

**1. Blessed be your name, In the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow, Blessed be your name.**

**2. Blessed be your name, When I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed by your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

**3. Blessed be your name, when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's "all as it should be." blessed be your name.**

**4. Blessed be your name, On the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.**

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
"Lord, blessed be your name."**

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
"Lord, blessed be your name."**

**"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.**

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and our eternal Savior,
hear the prayers of Your people especially for our deliverance
when called to suffer for Your sake. Deliver us and all our
persecutors from the just judgment of our sins, and receive us
into the eternal mansions prepared for us; for You live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60* (Stephen chosen, the first martyr)

6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” **5** This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **6** They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. **8** Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

2 To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran.

51 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! **52** Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— **53** you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” **54** When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. **55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56** “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2–10

(A living stone and a holy people)

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a

holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 14:1–14*

(I am the way, the truth, and the life.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” **6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” **8** Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” **9** Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SONG “Above All”

Verse 1

Above all powers --- above all kings, --- Above all nature and all created things.

Above all wisdom and all the ways of man ---- You were here before the world began.

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones ---- Above all wonders the world has ever known.

Above all wealth and treasures of the earth ---- There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Chorus

Crucified – laid behind a stone. You lived to die – rejected and alone.

Like a rose trampled on the ground ---- You took the fall --- and thought of me --- above all.

Verse 1

Above all powers --- above all kings, --- Above all nature and all created things.

Above all wisdom and all the ways of man ---- You were here before the world began.

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones ---- Above all wonders the world has ever known.

Above all wealth and treasure of the earth ---- There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Chorus

Crucified – laid behind a stone. You lived to die – rejected and alone.

Like a rose trampled on the ground ---- You took the fall --- and thought of me --- above all.

SERMON

Who Are You?

John 14:1-14

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

SONG **“Glorious Day”**

Verse 1

One day when heaven was filled with His praises, one day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, dwelt among men, my example is He.
The Word became flesh and the Light shined among us. His glory revealed.

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified freely forever. One day He’s coming, O glorious day. O glorious day.

Verse 2

One day they led Him up Calvary’s mountain. One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised & rejected, bearing our sins my Redeemer is He.
The hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree and took the nails from me.

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified freely forever. One day He’s coming, O glorious day. O glorious day.

Verse 3

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer. One day the stone rolled away from the door.

Then He arose over death He had conquered. Now is ascended my Lord evermore.

Death could not hold Him. The grave could not keep Him from rising again.

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.

Rising, He justified freely forever. One day He's coming, O Glorious day, Glorious Day

Bridge

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming. One day the skies with His glories will shine.

Wonderful day my beloved one bringing. My Savior Jesus is mine.

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.

Rising, He justified freely forever. One day He's coming, O glorious day. O glorious day, Glorious Day, Oh glorious day.