

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Easter 5 - May 10, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #531 - *“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion’s help forever
And our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all your lovingkindness,
Hear your people as they pray,
And your fullest benediction
Speak within these walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain,
What they gain from you forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in your glory
Evermore with you to reign.**

**Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of 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.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 17:1-12

When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women. But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go. That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so. Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men. (EHV)

Psalm 33:

Refrain: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

**Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
It is fitting for the upright to praise him.**

**For the Word of the LORD is right and true;
He is faithful in all he does.**

**By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
Their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**

**For he spoke, and it came to be;
He commanded, and it stood firm.**

Refrain: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

**The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.**

**But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
The purposes of his heart through all generations.**

**The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of his unfailing love.**

**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.**

Refrain: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:4-10

As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put

to shame. Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall. Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 14:1-12

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. You know where I am going, and you know the way.” “Lord, we don't know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so 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 would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him. “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.” “Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves. “Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn #528 - *“Christ is Our Cornerstone”*

**Christ is our cornerstone;
On him alone we build.
With his true saints alone
The courts of heav’n are filled.
On his great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above.**

**Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring!
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim in joyful song,
Both loud and long, that glorious name.**

**Here, gracious God, do now
And evermore draw near;
Accept each faithful vow
And all your children hear,
And more and more on those who pray
Each holy day your blessing pour.**

**Here may we gain from heav’n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest
To endless rest are called away!**

The Sermon: 1 Peter 2:4-10
“God’s Extensive Building Project”

Nowadays there are lots of **buildings** which are going through changes. Some of the oldest buildings are being **torn down**, in order to make room for more modern and **more useful** structures. Others are receiving **facelifts** by remodeling their interior, exterior, or perhaps even both. That was the situation for the **spiritual** building mentioned in our text today. While in one sense that building remains much the **same**, since it is built on a solid **cornerstone** - on the other hand, the building is going through much **change**, as it is **enlarged** and **improved** day after day. Today let’s look at **God’s Extensive Building Project**, and as we oversee the project let’s note especially its **beginnings**, its **foundation**, and its **superstructure**.

It is very clear that the building in our text is a **stone** building. Therefore, in order to investigate its beginnings we must venture into a stone **quarry**. What do we **find** there? **Rock** - and lots of it. **Rough, hard, cold** rock - rock which is not **pretty** at all in its **unrefined** state. Yet, we only need to think of stone **houses, churches, statues, or sculptures** in order to realize how beautiful quarried stone **can** be, once its **facing** has been **exposed**. All by itself the beauty is **there**, but it takes the hand of a skilled **craftsman** to **bring out** that beauty.

When God began His **Extensive Building Project**, He found a quarry **filled** with rough, hard, cold stone - stones which **didn’t fit** into place. Our text says, “*At one time you were **not** a people, but now you are the people of **God**. At one time you were **not** shown mercy, but now you **have** been shown mercy*” God found us in our **rough** state - **lost** in sin, and **unwilling** to come out of our **darkness**. But by His **grace** and **mercy**, we became His **people**. He **transformed** us into individual **building blocks**, forming us into **beautiful** and **functional** stones.

Yet, a pile of beautiful stones is useless unless it is employed for a specific purpose, like a building project. **God’s Building Project** is a temple - and this is where the stones would be used. However, first a foundation had to be laid. Just as the Jewish temple of the Old Testament was built on a solid rock, Mt. Zion - so also **God’s Building Project** in the New Testament is established on an immovable stone. It’s built on Christ. Peter called Him, “*the **Living Stone**,*” and God had spoken about Him hundreds of years earlier through the Prophet Isaiah. Peter paraphrased the words of the prophet in our text, but the actual words from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah were, “*Look, I am laying a **stone** in Zion as a **foundation**, a **tested** stone, a **precious** cornerstone to provide a **sure foundation**.*”

Whoever believes will not be put to shame.” God chose the picture of a **stone** to represent Christ, because a stone is **strong** and **stable**. It is certain to endure all kinds of assaults, including even the most severe weather. This is the kind of foundation God wanted for **His Building Project** - one which could not be **moved** - one which would never **waver**, even in the most **trying** circumstances.

For most of us, that strong and stable foundation was laid, at least in part, by our parents. In our early years, they brought us to the feet of our Savior to receive Baptism, and to participate in Lutheran Elementary School, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School, as well as to worship regularly at weekly church services. We would not be the **people** we are today - and we would probably not have the **faith** we have today - if it had not been for the faithful and tireless efforts of those wonderful Christian **parents**, who assisted in laying the **foundation** for our faith.

But notice that the foundation of Christ doesn't have the same effect on **all** people. Peter said, *“The one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.”* Unfortunately, not all people **believe** in Jesus. Not all people **trust** this Rock for their safety and salvation. They would rather trust **something else** - perhaps their own **reason**, or maybe some other **person** - but **not** Christ! That reaction is a trait which immediately separates Christ from everything else - there is no such thing as **indifference** toward Him. There is no such thing as a **lukewarm** Christian. Either you are completely **for** Him, or you will completely **oppose** Him. And those who choose to **oppose** Christ will be put to **shame**, for all **other** foundations offer no real **support**. They are like building on **quicksand**.

Again St. Peter paraphrased the words of Isaiah. He wrote, *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.”* The very thing which these men rejected as being **worthless** to them, is the same thing which has been **elevated** by God to the highest possible or most **important** position. Where does Jesus fit into **our** lives? Will He be our firm **foundation**, or will He be the **stone** over which we **stumble** and **fall**? Will we **see** Him for what He **is**, the **Savior** who purchased our souls with His own **blood**, and who **gives** us eternal life in **heaven** - or will we be **unable** to see Him, and consequently **trip** over Him and **fall** into everlasting **despair**? Let the person **beware** who continually finds Jesus is getting in his **way**! All too **soon**, and yet too **late**, he will realize that Jesus did not **block** his pathway, and to his **dismay** he will find himself in **hell** for all eternity.

By the grace of God, we are **different**. Peter wrote, *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own*

*possession, so that you may **proclaim** the praises of him who called you out of **darkness** into his marvelous **light**.*” Each one of those phrases which describe the Holy Christian Church could easily have an entire sermon devoted to it. But today, we’ll have to settle for just a few words on each. First of all, we are a **chosen** people - chosen by **God** before creation - chosen **not** because of our own goodness (which can’t even **exist** apart from God) - chosen to **hear** God’s Word, and to **believe** it, and to **live** it. You and I have been **chosen** to spend both time and eternity in God’s **presence**.

Second, we are a **royal priesthood** - we are **royalty**. We are **rich** beyond compare because the **King**, Jesus Christ, is our **brother**. We are all **princes** and **princesses** both in **this** world, and in the **next** because of God’s great **love** for us. And not only are we **royalty**, but we are a royal **priesthood** - kings **and** priests all at the same time. You and I are in an **intimate** relationship with God. We have the blessed privilege of **talking** to Him - bringing our **requests** and **intercessions** to Him - at any **time**, and from any **place**. And we also have the privilege of bringing our **praise** and **offerings** to Him as royal priests within His house.

Third, we are a **holy** nation - a group of people whose sins have been covered with a robe of righteousness. We are holy through the merits of Jesus Christ alone. And finally, we are the people who are God’s own **possession**. We are **owned** by Him, because we have been **redeemed**, or **bought back** from a sinful existence which leads to hell, by the blood of His Son. Even though we were utterly worthless, God placed the highest value on us which the world has ever known. God’s own Son had to **die**, in order that we might **live**. And now we make up the **superstructure** in **God’s Extensive Building Project**. Peter said, *“As you come to him, the **Living Stone**, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you **also**, like living stones, are being **built** as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

Once again the Easter message is being proclaimed - because **Christ** lives, we **also** live. We are no longer **dead** in sin, but are **alive** by the working of the Holy Spirit in us. We are the **living** stones which God uses to build His holy **temple**. Paul explained it to the Ephesians very nicely when he said, *“So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household. You have been **built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. In him the whole building is **joined together** and **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord. In him **you too** are being **built** together into a dwelling place for **God** by the Spirit.”*

Yes, God laid the **foundation** for His temple, He provides the **living stones** for its **superstructure**, and then finally He lives **within** those stones to daily **strengthen** them and **keep** them united with Him forever. May we all continue to be **built up** in our faith, through the hearing of God's **Word**, and through receiving the Lord's **body** and **blood** in Holy Communion - and in this way, we will continue to remain **healthy, active, living** stones in **God's Extensive Building Project**. Amen.

Prayers:

O Jesus, our risen and ever-living Savior, we praise You with our whole being, because You have done **wonderful** things for us. At the cross we find full **forgiveness** of sins, **life**, and **salvation**. There You **suffered** and **died** in our place. At the empty tomb we find full **comfort, joy**, and **hope**. Your resurrection **proves** that You are God's Son, whose sacrifice has been **accepted** for our transgressions. We give all glory, honor, and praise to **You**, for winning for us the **victory** over death, the devil, sin, and hell. We also praise You for Your **Word** of truth, by which we have learned about **salvation** through **faith**. Help us to **share** that wisdom, by sharing **Jesus**, and living caring lives.

Lord and Savior, we also praise You for the privilege of **prayer** which God has given us in Your name - for **Your** intercession **for** us at God's throne - for Your never-failing **presence** in our lives, and Your constant **protection** - for Your gift to us of the **Holy Spirit** - for the washing away of our **sins** through Baptism - for our **communion** with You in the Lord's Supper - for Your **help** in all our troubles, as well as Your **healing** of our illnesses - and for Your **comfort** to ease our sorrows.

As we celebrate **Mother's Day** today, we ask You to bless all the **mothers** of our congregation. Fill their hearts with true love for their children. Give them the **wisdom** to put first things first, so that they not only concern themselves about the **bodily** welfare and the **mental** development of their children, but will **especially** attend to their **spiritual** training. Make them realize that it will be of no benefit to them at all, if their children become famous, rich, successful, and honored in **earthly** ways, but in the process **lose** their own precious souls. Give us **consecrated** Christian mothers that we may have happy **homes**, and a congregation which will continue to be a true **delight** to You. Help us to **honor** our mothers, by striving to be the kind of sons and daughters **You** want us to be.

Also, we ask You to answer the fervent prayers of all those Christian couples who have been **unable** to have children, but who have the **desire** to become Christian parents. And in the meantime, **console** them with Your comforting **Word**, and help them find **expression** for their parental love in performing deeds of kindness for **others**, who are so much in **need** of love. We thank and praise You for the home that You are preparing for us in **heaven**, and Your promise to **come again** and receive us to Yourself. And finally, we praise You for the hope of **our** resurrection from the dead, for the **forgiveness** of all our sins, and for the certainty of **everlasting life**.

Precious Redeemer, through the Holy Spirit, fill us with a desire to **feed** on the Bread of Life. Make Your **Word**, through which You come to us, sweeter than **honey** to our taste, and let it constantly **nourish** our faith. Make Yourself known to the spiritually **starving** nations of the world, as You enable the Gospel to be **preached** to them. If only the whole **world** would learn to praise Your name, to receive Your **salvation**, and to **trust** You for **every** good and needful blessing. Amen.

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.**

Hymn #529 - "Built on the Rock"

**Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.**

**We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God did receive us.
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what the sacrament gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.**

**Grant then, O God, your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ his message is bringing:
"I know my own; my own know me.
You, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you always."**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

The Blessing:

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

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #356 - "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

**You are the way; through you alone
Can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone
True wisdom can impart.
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in you
Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.**