Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

"Bonded in Christ's love, we teach, preach, and equip God's people for discipleship here and throughout the world."

Fifth Sunday in Easter
Mother's Day
May 10, 2020

Prelude – Bell

Gathering

P- As we celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house.

C- Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. *Psalm 31:5*

P- Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world.

C- Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. *Psalm 31:5*

P- In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

C- Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. *Psalm 31:5*

Gathering Hymn – ELW 376, Thine is the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

Thanksgiving for Baptism
All may make the sign of the cross that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins.
P- Joined with Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
C- Amen
P- As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting Christ crucified and risen.
Water is poured into the font by church family.
P- We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
C- and planted us in a well-watered garden.
P- In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
C- and you gave us water from the rock.
P- When we did not know the way,
C- you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
P- At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
C- and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
P- We praise you for your salvation through the water,
C- for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
With what shall we come before you?
P- Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
C- Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
P- To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity + of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
C- Amen.
Please be seated.

Children's Time – Witness, an earthen vessel that seeks to bear the heavenly to the unworthy in order to convince them of the unprovable. *From* **Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms**

Readings

Acts 7:55-60
Lector – Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, for his preaching of God's word he becomes the first martyr for the faith.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *Read responsively.*

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Prayer of the Day
P- Almighty God,
C- your Son, Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow Jesus; commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

John 14:1-14

P- On the night he is arrested, Jesus shares his final words with his disciples. As the one in whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf. Jesus answered:

"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." The Gospel of the Lord!

Special Music –

Message – Witness, to talk about God to another person, which many people fear more than death! *From* **Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms**

Want to see your average Christian flinch?
Ask them to share their faith. Publically!
To do so us to be a witness for Christ.

Offering Hymn – ELW 623, Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from guilt and pow'r.

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

Offering Prayer
P- Our merciful God,
**C- our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker 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 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**

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, "Lord in your mercy" please respond by saying,* ***"Hear our prayer!"***

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.

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal
P- May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead,
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
C- Amen.
P- Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C- Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn – ELW #884, Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, + Son, and Holy Ghost!