

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
May 7, 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**The Stoning of Saint Stephen**

Painting, circa 1602-1605 by Adam Elsheimer  
held by Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14.6*

**CP 302 They Did Not Build In Vain**

1 They did not build in vain  
who founded here a church  
as witness to God's love  
amid a world of pain,  
for still, to those who wish to see,  
this place proclaims God's mystery.

2 They built upon the rock  
that is the risen Lord,  
the one foundation laid  
which stands each earthly shock;  
that, Spirit filled, we here might raise,  
as living temples, prayer and praise.

3 Those who have loved this place,  
a cloud of witnesses,  
surround and urge us on  
as we now run our race,  
and so we lay aside each sin  
in our desire to strive and win.

4 Though the horizon's bend  
conceals the way ahead,  
the footprints on the road  
show Christ waits at the end;  
in him alone our faith shall stand  
who waits for us at God's right hand.

5 In every place our world  
is storm and tempest tossed;  
the flames of fear and hate  
are evil's flags unfurled;  
yet still the Spirit's wind and fire  
pour gifts for service in this hour.

6 Here is our meeting place,  
where doubt finds grounds of faith;  
where hurt finds healing love,  
our penitence your grace;  
where bridging time to eternity  
is God the holy Trinity.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,  
 All desires known,  
 And from you no secrets are hidden.  
 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.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16     *Refrain:* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

31:1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

31:2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

31:3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

31:4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

31:5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

31:15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

31:16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

### A Reading from Acts 7:55-60

7:55 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.

7:56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

7:57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

7:58 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.

7:59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

7:60 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 450 You Call Us, Lord, To Be

1 You call us, Lord, to be  
a people set apart,  
to feel with thoughtful mind  
and think with tender heart.  
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask  
for faith in your unfailing grace  
to make us equal to the task.

2 You call us, Lord, to care  
for self and neighbour too,  
to take the risk, and dare  
to show what love can do.  
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask  
for faith in your unfailing grace  
to make us equal to the task.

3 You call us, Lord, to be  
good stewards of the earth;  
to tend to it as a place  
of blessedness and worth.  
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask  
for faith in your unfailing grace  
to make us equal to the task.

4 You call us, Lord, to serve:  
to die that we may live,  
to know we best receive  
when joyfully we give.  
Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask  
for faith in your unfailing grace  
to make us equal to the task.

A Reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10

2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-

2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2:4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and

2:5 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.

2:6 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."

2:7 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,"

2:8 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.

2:9 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.

2:10 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CP 620 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
and drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding place,  
my never-failing treasury, filled  
with boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,  
my prophet, priest, and king,  
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
accept the praise I bring.

5 Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.

### The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### John 14:1-14

14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

14:2 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?

14:3 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.

14:4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

14:7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

14:8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

14:9 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'?

14:10 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.

14:11 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.

14:12 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.

14:13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 6271639 Abba Father

1 Abba Father we approach You  
 In our Savior's precious name  
 We Your children here assembled  
 Now Your promised blessing claim  
 From our sins His blood has washed us  
 Now we can draw nigh  
 By the power of Your Spirit  
 Abba Father now we cry  
 Abba Father now we cry

2 Once as prodigals we wandered  
 Hating what was all our need  
 But Your grace o'er sin abounding  
 Rescued us from misery  
 You the prodigals have pardoned  
 Kissed us with Your love  
 Spread the feast and now You've called us  
 E'er to dwell with You above  
 E'er to dwell with You above

**Bridge**

You have found Your once lost children  
 They now live who once were dead  
 It is right we hear You saying  
 For My people to be glad

3 Abba Father all adore You  
 Shout Your praise in Heav'n above  
 While in us they learn the wonders  
 Of Your wisdom grace and love  
 Soon before Your throne assembled  
 Gladly we'll proclaim  
 Glory everlasting glory  
 Be to God and to the Lamb  
 Be to God and to the Lamb

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He 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.  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 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.**

## Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Betty Johnson

For our intercessions today we will use Litany # 6 found on page 115 of the Book of Alternative Services.

(As we gather in God's presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

For the whole People of God throughout the world,

In the worldwide cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church in Wales.

In Canada, we pray for the Diocese of Algoma: the Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario).

In the Diocese of Edmonton, we pray for our Bishop Steven, and Holy Trinity Riverbend: Eric Kregel, Serving Priest; Elisabeth Thompson, Honorary Assistant.

In the Diocese of Buyé, we pray for the Buringanire Parish: Gerard Macumi, Rector.

We pray for the people and community of the Whitefish Lake First Nation.

We pray for our St. Peter's family, especially our clergy Alison, our music ministry Nadine, our visiting priests, our wardens, vestry and Volunteers as we travel the road of transition that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do. We pray that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

For the repose of the souls of those who have died and for those who mourn, and for those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, and we pray especially for those for whom our prayers are requested:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene ..... Helen.....Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill.....

Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Roald..... Luci

that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We pray for his Majesty, King Charles III on the weekend of his coronation, for our Prime Minister, our Premier, and our Mayor, and for our whole country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We pray for places in the world experiencing conflict, especially Sudan, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria. We pray for the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,  
 your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.  
 Give us grace to love one another  
 and walk in the way of his commandments,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
 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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 569 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

1 Come, my Way, my Truth my Life:  
 such a way as gives us breath,  
 such a truth as ends all strife,  
 such a life as killeth death.

3 Come, my joy, my Love, my Heart:  
 such a joy as none can move,  
 such a love as none can part,  
 such a heart as joys in love.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
 such a light as shows a feast,  
 such a feast as mends in length,  
 such a strength as makes his guest.

## The Dismissal

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14.6*

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**