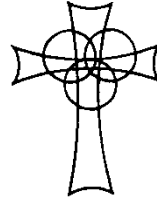


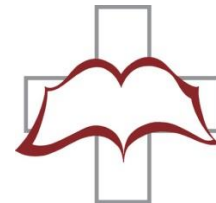
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**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Easter
April 28, 2021**



Service of the Word in Eastertide

✠ *Christ Jesus, Victor! Christ Jesus, Ruler! Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1, 139:7 and Liturgical Text

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** If I ascend to heaven, You are there!
C If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!
- C** 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.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.
- P** In Your resurrection, O Christ,
C let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia!

- P** ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- C** ²**He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**
- P** ³He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- C** ⁴**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- P** ⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- C** ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**
- C** **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.**

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

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

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Scripture Study for the Day

Baptized...Now We Live
A Study of 1 Peter

Study 3: What Have We Been Made to Be and to Do?

1. Who is this “living stone” that we are drawn to? Why does Peter call Him living? (vs. 4)
2. Why are we also called “living stones”? What is this “house” that we are built up to become, and for what purpose? Why must this house be built up upon the “living stone”? (vs. 5)
3. In verses 6-8, Peter uses various Scriptures to explain the importance of this “living stone” that God’s people are built upon (See Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14). Jesus used some of these words to speak of Himself and the work He came to accomplish (see Matthew 21:33-46). While we know that Jesus came to save and redeem all people, why is He a “stone of stumbling”?
4. The titles which Peter uses and gives to God’s people, the Church, are not new, but they come from the history of the people of Israel (vs. 9a). See how God speaks about Israel at Sinai in Exodus 19:1-6. How is God’s making of Israel into His people similar to how God makes the Church into His people through Christ?

5. As God's people, what work are we called to be about? (vs. 9b)
How are these "excellencies" connected to what Peter says of us as God's people in verse 10? (see also Hosea 1:2-11)

6. What does Peter call God's people to do in their life and living? Why is this important? How does it witness to the "Gentiles", especially on "the day of visitation"? (vss. 11-12; see also Matthew 5:14-16)

The Prayers:

P On this day that the Lord has made, let us pray for all the people He has redeemed.

Let us pray that we may live as those who believe in the triumph of Christ's cross:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that all people everywhere may receive the Good News of His victory:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that all those born to new life in the waters of Baptism may know the power of the Lord's resurrection:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us pray that those who suffer any pain or anguish may find healing and peace in the risen wounds of Christ:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us rejoice in the lives of all of God's saints, and let us pray that in the undying love of Christ we may be at last united with all who have died in the faith of Christ in the joys of God's eternal kingdom:

C **O Lord, hear us.**

P Let us commend the world, for which Christ died and rose again from the dead, to the mercy and protection of God as we offer to Him our prayers, either silently or aloud.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

The Collect of the Day:

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Collect for the Easter Season:

P O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace:

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Closing Prayer:

after Richard of Chichester (1253)

- P** Together, we pray:
C **Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You**
for all the benefits that You have won for us,
for all the pains and insults that You bore for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know You more clearly,
love You more dearly,
and follow You more nearly,
day by day.
Amen.

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
C **Amen.**

Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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