

FIRST READING. Acts 7:55-60

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.

SECOND READING. 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 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. 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.’ 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’, 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.

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 marvellous light. 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.

GOSPEL. John 14:1-14

‘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.



Fifth Sunday Of Easter

Sunday, May 7, 2023

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

Order of Worship

This morning’s Order of Worship is the located in the *Hymnal Supplement*, and the hymns are located in the *Hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW).

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



57 Griffith Street • Welland, Ontario • L3B 4G6 • 905-734-4746
email: stmatts@cogeco.net • website: stmatthewswelland.com

Pastor: Reverend Bart ColemanCell Phone (call or text) 289-821-9025
Home Phone289-820-7713
Emailbartsterc@gmail.com

Council Chairperson: Jenn Rusk
Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut
Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746
Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

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The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16 – Tune: 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.

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 shelter from danger.

I place my spirit in your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eyes are tired from so much crying; I am constantly worn out. I am exhausted by sorrow, and weeping has shortened my life. I am weak from all my troubles; even my bones are wasting away. I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. Everyone has forgotten me, as though I were dead; I am like something thrown away. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around, as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God."

I place my spirit in your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, from those who persecute me.

Lord, be my rock, my refuge sure,
My mighty fortress, safe, secure.

Let your face shine upon your servant, and in your lovingkindness save me.

I place my spirit in your care;
You, God, will keep me safely there.

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Dates to Remember

May 28 Church Council meeting after the service
June 11 Outdoor worship service and picnic, hosted by First Lutheran;
688 Elm Street in Port Colborne (more details coming soon

GATHERING
Thanksgiving for BaptismPrinted
Gathering SongELW 616 I Know That My
Redeemer Lives!

GreetingPage 2
KyriePage 3
Now the FeastPage 4
SalutationPage 7
Prayer of the Day

WORD
First ReadingActs 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 9-16printed in bulletin
Second Reading1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel Acclamation Page 8
“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelJohn 14:1-14
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day .ELW 816 Come, My Way...
Nicene CreedPage 10
Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“hear our prayer.”
Peace

MEAL
Offertory PrayerPage 13
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 14
HolyPage 15
Eucharistic Prayer
Acclamations 2 and 3Page 16-17
Through Christ, With Christ.....Page 17
The Lord’s PrayerPage 18
Communion
Lamb of GodPage 18-19
Communion Hymns ELW 768, 477
Thanks Be To YouPage 20
Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING
Blessing
Sending SongELW 654 The Church’s
One Foundation
Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.
“God Save the King”printed on insert