

GREETING

Gathered in Christ. **We serve with grace.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

GATHERING SONG "*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*".....#645

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his 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.

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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. Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my
stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

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

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may
grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to
him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s
sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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.” ⁷To 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,” ⁸and “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.
⁹But 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. 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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 4:1-14

Glorify you, O Lord. [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you
know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do
not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I
am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do
know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father,

and we will be satisfied.”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’?”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.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.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.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*”#389

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.* God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth’s diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "*The Church's One Foundation*"#654

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE

C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth,
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

* * *

In Our Prayers

Prayers for the Rosa Guzman-Alexander, Lawrence Hansen, Wanda Rains, Lenore Wind, Zach Griffith, Dave Madsen, Kari Linker, Lori Bostron, and Collene Travers.

THIS WEEK'S MINISTERS

Deacon: Beth Hocheder
Reader: Kim Redden
Altar Guild: Janet Rohde
Usher: John Turner
Sunshine Committee: Pat Chase & Marsha Mills
Clavinovist: Garnet Leys
Pastor: Sonja Pancoast
Come and Celebrate:

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

Beth Hocheder
Jeanne Wuest
Janet Rohde
John Turner
Pat Chase & Marsha Mills
Garnet Leys
Sonja Pancoast

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM

Today: 9:00 a.m. Worship
Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. Bible Study
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting
Friday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting
Next Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship
Baby Bottle Campaign Kick-Off

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baby Bottle Campaign

The annual Baby Bottle Campaign for the Pregnancy Resource Center will kick off next Sunday, May 14th and run through Father's Day, June 18th. All funds collected will be donated to A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center to help offer hope to local expectant mothers.

Bethlehem Quilters are Collecting Bedsheets

If you have any old bed sheets you're ready to part with, the BLC Quilters would graciously accept them for their quilts. No restrictions on color or size.