

The Gospel: Acts 6:1 – 7:2a, 44-60, 8:1 *(please stand as you are able)*

^{6:1}In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” ⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) – Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia – who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.” ¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.” ¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. ^{7:1}Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these charges true?” ²To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. ⁴⁴“Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, ⁴⁶who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: ⁴⁹““Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? ⁵⁰Has not my hand made all these things? ⁵¹“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵²Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – ⁵³you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” ⁵⁴When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep. ^{8:1} And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God**

Children’s Message: *Nicole Wananda (you may be seated)*

Children Sing: *“He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands”* (CCLI Lic.)

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day /Gathering of the Pledges:

Our Children’s Offering today will go toward our Forward in Faith Fund as a symbol of our commitment to steward well our holy spaces. All are invited to place pledge cards in the offering plates in addition to regular offering.

“Day of Arising” ELW #374

**Vs 1: Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.**

**Vs 2: When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.**

**Vs 3: Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ’s promise, this is Christ’s sign:
when the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.**

**Vs 4: Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.**

Prayer over our Pledges: L: Let us pray together,

C: Gracious God, giver of all that is good and true. May these pledges represent our faithfulness to continue living out your mission in our community. Through these gifts may we continue steward well the new space and tools for ministry you have provided us. Help us to even more effectively proclaim your Gospel, provide space for holy relationship, & be sent from here to be your hands & feet in the world. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Baptism of Raylynn Rose Hadler, the daughter of Randy and Heather Hadler

The Prayers:

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Nicole Anderson, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Steve Pabst, Bob Eppen, Tara Vieths, Chase Hanson, Scott Bignell & Peg Campbell. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.**

The Meal & Hymns: *(congregation may be seated)*

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“Hallelujah” *(from Shrek)* **Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah** 2X

“Christ Be Our Light” ELW #715

Vs 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Vs 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Vs 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Vs 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” ELW #377

Vs 1: Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Vs 2: Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. [Refrain]

Vs. 4: Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. [Refrain]

Vs. 5: City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of Life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! [Refrain]

Communion Prayer: *(please stand as you are able)* P: Let us pray together,
C: Life-giving God, in the gift of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection. May the
Risen Christ live through us in word and deed. Amen.

Blessing: P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” ELW #836 *(Children play instruments)*

Vs 1: Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Vs 2: All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav’n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow’ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Vs 3: Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Dismissal: P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



St. Luke Lutheran • Pastor Eric Hanson • 9:30AM • May 4, 2025
Commitment Sunday & Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude: “We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus” ELW #451 sung by the Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Commitment Sunday Temple Talk: Larry Miller

The Easter Litany:
P: Christ is risen!
C: Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light
and our salvation.
C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness:
P: Faithful and Just God,
C: We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our
sisters & brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change
our lives & make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen.
P: Christ suffered for sins, once for all, in order to bring you to God. Now you are God’s people; now you have
received mercy. In the name of the risen + Lord Jesus, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. Lay aside
guilt, put away shame, for you are chosen & precious in God’s sight. Live in the marvelous light of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” ELW #632
Vs. 1: O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
Vs. 2: Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
Vs. 3: Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.
Vs. 4: A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
Vs. 5: Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all our years away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream, Dies at the op’ning day.
Vs. 6: O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home.

Prayer of the Day:
P: Let us pray.
C: Holy Giver & Receiver of life, Your martyr, Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit. When his opponents
took his life, he offered up his spirit to you, & prayed mercy for theirs. Make Stephen an example of faith &
courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought light & life to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Praise for the Word: “O Praise The Name Of The Lord, O God” 2X (CCLI Lic.)
O praise the name of the Lord, our God. O praise His name forevermore.
For endless days we will sing Your praise. O Lord, O Lord, Our God!