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**5th Sunday of Easter**

“Christ is our cornerstone, on Him alone we build; with His true saints alone the courts of heav’n are filled. On His great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.” *LSB* 912:1

**AS WE GATHER**

We see who Jesus is and who we are because of Him. Jesus is the cornerstone, the foundation upon which God’s people are built. We are His newborn, chosen, priestly people. We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world around us, always firm and secure, knowing that Christ is an unshakable foundation.

**PSALM** 146

**+ Preparation +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Christ is our cornerstone;

**People: on Him alone we build.**

Pastor: In Him we are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.

**People: We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

 *Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore as Your newborn, chosen, priestly people, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Though Jesus Christ was rejected and killed, God raised Him from the dead, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Christ is Our Cornerstone”* (*LSB* 912)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Peter 2:2-10 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 14:1-14 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“Built on the Rock”* (*LSB* 645)

**SERMON *“Help is In Christ”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Christ is our cornerstone,

 **People: on Him alone we build.**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“The Church’s One Foundation”* (*LSB* 644)

 *“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”* (*LSB* 575)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal. Daily remind us of our identity in You as a newborn, chosen, priestly people called to proclaim Your excellencies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”* (*LSB* 465)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**