

READINGS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

May 3rd—8:00 & 10:15am

First Reading (8 & 10:15) *Please check that microphone is on*

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen 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.

The Word of the Lord.

The Psalm (8:00 only) *Please check that microphone is on*

Let us pray a portion of Psalm 31 responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

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

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

**3 Be 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.

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

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

**19 How great is your goodness, O Lord!
which you have laid up for those who fear you; ***
which you have done in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.

20 You hide them in the covert of your presence from those who slander them;*
you keep them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

21 Blessed be the Lord! *
for he has shown me the wonders of his love in a besieged city.

**22 Yet I said in my alarm,
“I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.” ***
Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my entreaty
when I cried out to you.

23 Love the Lord, all you who worship him; *

the Lord protects the faithful,

but repays to the full those who act haughtily.

24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, *

all you who wait for the Lord.

Second Lesson (8 & 10:15) *Please check that microphone is on*

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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 marvelous 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.

The Word of the Lord.

The Prayers (8:00 only) Please check that microphone is on

Deacon: In this season of resurrection, let us pray for the church and the world saying: Hear our prayer.

That the Church celebrating the resurrection with joy may bring the light of Christ into the world. Risen One, **hear our prayer.**

That the leaders of all nations, knowing their power, may bring peace and justice to the world. Risen One, **hear our prayer.**

That the presence of the Resurrected Christ may be found in places of suffering, violence, oppression and injustice. Risen One, **hear our prayer.**

That all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, recalling the mystery of Christ crucified and risen, may be comforted, especially **David, Bob, Marcia, Claudius, Jack, Linda, Mara, Shelia, Bill, Diane, Lois, Donna, Hans, Nathan, Noreen, Scott, Bertha, Amelia, Ella, Bill,** and those whose names are held in the quiet of our hearts. Risen One, **hear our prayer.**

For the saints and martyrs, for the witnesses of the resurrection, and for all those who have passed over from the darkness of death into the glorious light of Christ: Risen One, **hear our prayer.**

After a period of silence, the presider adds a collect.