

Hearing God's Call to Become Community

Prelude: "The Church of Christ in Every Age" # 475

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn of Gathering:** "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" # 229

- 1. That Easter day with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light; when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad apostles saw their Lord!**
- 2. His risen flesh with radiance glowed; his wounded hands and feet he showed; those scars their solemn witness gave; that Christ was risen from the grave.**
- 3. O Jesus, strong in gentleness, come now yourself, our hearts possess; that we may give you all our days; the tribute of our grateful praise.**
- 4. Come, risen Christ, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide; your own redeemed forever shield; from every weapon death can wield.**
- 5. All praise to you, O risen Lord, Now both by heaven and earth adored; To God the Father equal praise, And God the Spirit, now we raise!**

Seeking God's Mercy and Pardon

*Responsive Call to Worship 8:30am Jim Ward/ 10:30 John Mowen

"Psalm 31" (see insert) # 738

Proclaiming and Hearing the Word

Children's Message Rev. Schwartz & Abigail

Text *Acts 7:51-8:4* (NRSVA)

Message "Jesus...Scatters the Church?" Rev. Schwartz

Time for Giving

Call for Our Offerings 8:30am Jim Ward/10:30am Roy McLellan

***Doxology:** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 46

Prayer of Dedication

* - *Please stand*

Receiving the Visible and Tangible Signs of God's Grace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational/Pastoral Prayer

Communion Meditation and Invitation 8:30am Rev. Schwartz/ 10:30am Roy McLellan

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Communion Music: "How Deep the Father's Love For Us" MSPW3 # 137

*Come forward to the Lord's Table to partake of Communion

Departing to Serve Where God Leads

Closing Hymn "Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us" # 231

- 1. Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still, one who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill; Christ who once upon a hill-top raised against the power of sin; died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!**
- 2. We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day, and have told him of the violence that has swept our hope away. He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light. Did our hearts not blaze within us as he broke the bread this night?**
- 3. Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near. Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from every fear. In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn; if you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.**

*Benediction

Rev. Schwartz

Postlude: "Now the Green Blade Rises" # 230

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Color: White

Acts 7: 51-8:4 (NRSVA)

⁵¹ ‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ 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. ⁵⁶ ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ 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.

8 ¹ And Saul approved of their killing him.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

⁴ Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word.

L: Christ is Risen!

P: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

First Christian Church

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Sunday May 7, 2023 8:30am ☩ 10:30a.m.

Welcome! May your journey of Faith be encouraged while you seek God here today.