



INCARNATION

ANGLICAN CHURCH



**A PLACE FOR THOSE LOOKING
FOR ANSWERS**

May 3, 2026

Order of Service

Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME

*Our service follows a liturgical tradition handed down to us since the time of the Apostles. Please follow along, and participate by reading the portions in **bold**. Some people choose to follow the ancient Jewish tradition (see Ezekiel 9) of making a “cross” sign at certain portions of the liturgy. Those wishing to do so, may, at portions marked with a † sign.*

As Christians in the Anglican Tradition, we observe the Church Calendar, along with the majority of God’s people around the world and throughout history. This calendar enhances our worship experience, by creating a seasonal rhythm of worship whereby we regularly reflect upon the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, as well as the gift of the Holy Spirit.

During the Season of Easter, we focus on the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ; that world changing event whereby redemption was accomplished and the power of sin, death, and the devil were conquered.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Do you or someone you know have young children that would need care during our services? We have a children’s ministry in place, and would love to help serve however possible.

All of our child care workers are Ministry Safe certified, and have had full background checks.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD



*Our service is divided in to two sections: **the Ministry of the Word of God**, and **the Ministry of the Holy Communion**. The first section primarily focuses on the scriptures, in light of all Jesus Christ has accomplished for us, as they are prayed, confessed, and explained.*

OPENING PROCESSION SONG

Congregants are encouraged to stand and face the cross as we process in with it

How Great Thou Art

Verse 1

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

Chorus

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

Verse 2

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

Verse 3

And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Verse 4

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art

WORDS OF WELCOME

Minister: Welcome to Incarnation, a community rooted in Christ and the traditions we have received since the time of the Apostles, Artistic in the way we live our lives and worship, and Welcoming to all whom the Lord brings in to our midst.

Celebrant:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Minister: Let us pray together.

Minister & People:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

“Collect” refers to a form of prayer, used in liturgies since the third century, that Christians use when they “collect” together for worship.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

(Ruth 2:4)

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

Minister: Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. †

People: **Amen.**

Congregation May Be Seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form VI (1979 BCP, Pg. 392)

The Leader and People pray responsively. Please note we will segue straight from prayers of people to confession of sin.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; and especially for President Donald Trump, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Adam Schiff, Congressman Kevin Kiley, Placer County Supervisor Bonnie Gore, and Roseville City Manager Dominic Casey.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Edward Vaughan, our Archbishop for Bishop Josh and Mother Kendra, our priests; Phoenix and Jess our postulants and for the following ministers, churches, and ministries: *(pause for names)*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(pause for names)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(The People may add their own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

And now, let us pray a Prayer for Social Justice:

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(Prayer for Social Justice Book of Common Prayer, p. 260)

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. † **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN



Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

(Silent Confession)



ABSOLUTION

(John 20:23)

Absolution means "to grant forgiveness". The words the minister shares here are Christ's words of forgiveness to His children.

Minister here reads comfortable words from scripture, then says:

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all † goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

SIGN OF PEACE



Minister: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Minister: May the Peace of the Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

(John 20: 19, 21)

*Please greet one another during this time with a "Holy Fist Bump".
The traditional greeting is "Peace Be With You" with the response "And also with you..."*

THE LESSONS:

LESSON SONG

Better Is One Day

Verse 1

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)

Bridge 1

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Bridge 2

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

FIRST LESSON

Acts 7:55-60 NRSVue

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSE

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 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.**
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2:2-10 NRSVue

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and

5 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. 6 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.”

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 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.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL HYMN

Congregation may stand and reverence the gospel book as we process out with it. Congregation may also cross their forehead †, lips †, and then heart †, as a way of physically praying that the word of God would dwell in their minds, their words, and their hearts.

"Yours Are The Words of Life" Words, Ancient. Music, Fr. Rob Patterson

Musical score for the hymn "Yours Are The Words of Life". The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first four measures of the melody, with lyrics "A - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia, yours are the words of life." and chord markings C, G, F, C, G7 above it. The second staff contains the next four measures, with lyrics "A - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia, yours are the words _____ of ____" and chord markings C, Am7, F, G above it. The third staff contains the final two measures, with lyrics "life _____" and chord markings F, C above it. The score ends with a double bar line.

GOSPEL READING

Reader: Reading the Holy Gospel † of our Lord Jesus Christ †, according to John chapter 14 †.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 14:1-14 NRSVue

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

8 Philip 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 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.

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

THE MESSAGE

Bishop Joshua Lickter
A Place For Those Looking For Answers

**If you have questions during the sermon please text Bishop Josh
and he will take time to answer them after the sermon.**

530-559-1864

Nicene Creed

Please stand if you are able

(4th Century)

This creed, drafted at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, responded to the heretical teachings of Arius, who preached Jesus as a non-eternal, created being. At the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD, this creed underwent further modification, in order to better communicate a Biblical understanding of the Trinity. It uses the word “catholic” to refer to the universal church, consisting of Christ followers throughout the ages, as opposed to a particular denomination. Together with the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed has helped establish the boundaries that define “Christian” and unify followers of Christ for almost 2000 years.

*The following version of the Creed is used in the 2019 Book of Common Prayer. It is a newer English translation, that better reflects the language of the original Creed in Greek. The phrase “and the Son” †(Latin: **filioque**) is not in the original Greek text. The Coptic and Orthodox Traditions do not use it. Its recitation is now optional in ACNA Congregations.*

Minister: Followers of Christ, what do you believe?

Minister & People:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],† who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead †, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

You may be seated

**“Catholic” means “universal” or “true”. It does not refer to a particular denomination or tradition.*





OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Christ followers support the church's mission and ministry through offering a sacrificial portion of our resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. This pattern presents itself to us throughout the scriptures. (See, for example, Deuteronomy 26; Proverbs 3: 8,9; Malachi 3:10) For many at Incarnation, it is easier to give online.

We encourage our members to give online during this time. To do so, please visit www.IncarnationMission.Org, and click on "Donate". You may also mail your offering to us at PO Box 434, Roseville, CA 95661.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Minister & People: Through Christ may we continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. May we not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Amen.

(-Based on Hebrews 13:15, 16)

OFFERTORY SONG

Here I Go Again

Whitesnake

I don't know where I'm going
But I sure know where I've been
Hanging on the promises in songs of yesterday
And I've made up my mind
I ain't wasting no more time
Here I go again, here I go again
Though I keep searching for an answer
I never seem to find what I'm looking for
Oh, Lord, I pray you give me strength to carry
on

'Cause I know what it means
To walk along the lonely street of dreams

Here I go again on my own
Going down the only road I've ever known
Like a drifter, I was born to walk alone
And I've made up my mind
I ain't wasting no more time
I'm just another heart in need of rescue
Waiting on love's sweet charity
And I'm gonna hold on for the rest of my days

'Cause I know what it means
To walk along the lonely street of dreams

And here I go again on my own
Going down the only road I've ever known
Like a drifter, I was born to walk alone
And I've made up my mind
I ain't wasting no more time
But here I go again

Here I go again
Here I go again
Here I go

'Cause I know what it means
To walk along the lonely street of dreams

And here I go again on my own
Going down the only road I've ever known
Like a drifter, I was born to walk alone
And I've made up my mind
I ain't wasting no more time

And here I go again on my own
Going down the only road I've ever known
Like a drifter I was born to walk alone

'Cause I know what it means
To walk along the lonely street of dreams

And here I go again on my own
Going down the only road I've ever known
Like a drifter, I was born to walk alone

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THOS. KEN.

Doxology.

(Old Hundred. L. M.)

LOUIS BOURGEOIS.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here be-low;
Praise him a-bove, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

CLOSING OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord,
People And of thine own have we given thee.
-1 CHRONICLES 29:11, 14

People may be seated or remain standing

DEACON'S MASS SCRIPTURE READING

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **54** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **56** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. (John 6:53-56)

THE LORDS PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Minister & People:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please sit or kneel

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

People: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

Minister: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

John 1:29, Revelation 19:9

You May Be Seated

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic elements on the altar are open to all who would consider themselves baptized Christians, regardless of tradition or background. There are multiple ways to participate:

- You can take the host and dip it in the cup (This is called intinction) or you may partake of only the wafer (This is called communion in one kind. We believe the body and blood of Christ will still manifest in a mystical manner).
- You may also drink from the cup of wine, but if you do, please wait near the end of the communion line.
- There is also a second chalice with grape juice in it for those unable to partake of the wine.
- If you or your children would like to come forward to witness the table, but not partake, you are welcome to do so. Just cross your arms, and the minister will pray a blessing over you.

You don't have to know all the answers, nor do you need "perfect" faith. God has faithfully met people throughout the ages by way of these words and elements. Whatever struggles or doubts you may have, He will faithfully meet you through these means of grace. If you find yourself unsure of your standing with God, please take advantage of this time to consider all God has done for you through Jesus Christ.

Prayer For Spiritual Communion (For those watching Online):

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The ministers receive the Sacraments, and then immediately deliver it to the people with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven **Amen.** †

The Cup of Christ, the blood of Salvation **Amen.** †

After Communion, the Minister says:

Let us pray.

Minister and People:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

If you are able, please stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri.

The *Gloria Patri* contains the oldest known words, outside of scripture, that followers of Christ have sung or recited, for over 1900 years. Traditionally, when the Trinitarian Formula (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) is used, worshippers either bow their heads or make the sign of the cross.

Gloria Patri

Source unknown, 2nd century

HENRY W. GREATOREX

The musical score for 'Gloria Patri' is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost: as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.' The score concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Please Be Seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING BLESSING

Minister: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, † be among you, and remain with you always. (*Philippians 4:7*)

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Big House

Verse 1

I don't know where you lay your head
Or where you call your home
I don't know where you eat your meals
Or where you talk on the phone
I don't know if you got a cook
A butler or a maid
I don't know if you got a yard
With a hammock in the shade

Verse 2

I don't know if you got some shelter
Say a place to hide
I don't know if you live with friends
In whom you can confide
I don't know if you got a fam'ly
Say a mom or dad
I don't know if you feel love at all
But I bet you wish you had

Chorus

Come and go with me
To my Father's house
Come and go with me
To my Father's house
It's a big big house
With lots and lots of room
A big big table
With lots and lots of food
It's a big big yard
Where we can play football
A big big house
It's my Father's house

Verse 3

All I know is a big ol' house
With rooms for ev'ryone
All I know is a- lots of land
Where we can play and run
All I know is you need love
And I've got a family
All I know is you're all alone
So why not come with me

DISMISSAL

Minister:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Anyone wanting prayer or anointing are encouraged to come to the altar at the close of service

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Thursday Morning Prayer. Join us to pray the Daily Office at the Fig Tree (217 Vernon St) at 9:30 am.

Jespers

Evening prayer led by Jessica Watanabe in Rocklin. It will be on the 2nd and 4th **Wednesday** at 6:30. Appetizers will be served. For more information please contact Jessica.916-642-5184

JessicaKcullen@gmail.com

Next Date: May 13 and 27

Sunday Bible Study

9:30 Sunday Mornings in the fellowship hall. Using N.T. Wright's Study in Acts. If you have any questions please reach out to Kathy Greaves.

My Mother's Voice

We are collecting donations for "My Mother's Voice" They are most in need of canned and non perishable food specifically, canned beans, rice, canned tomatoes, seasonings, flour, Maseca (corn flour), peanut/almond butter, new socks (all sizes) and hairbrushes. you have any questions please contact Elena.

Giving of Our Time and Talents

Would you like to get more involved at Incarnation? We are looking for volunteers to help with running the live stream, child care, and musicians. If you are interested in helping in any of these or other areas please speak with Bishop Josh.

Learn how to pray the Daily Office.
Download the Mission St Claire app, or visit:
<https://www.missionstclare.com/>



Episcopal Free Fellowship
of America



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www.Incarnationmission.org

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Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church
1050 Douglas Blvd
Roseville, CA 95678
11:00 AM

First lesson(1)

Acts 7:55-60 NRSVue

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM. (2)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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.**

15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

NEW TESTAMENT (3)

1 Peter 2:2-10 NRSVue

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 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. 6 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.”

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 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.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

Reader: Reading the Holy Gospel † of our Lord Jesus Christ †,
according to John chapter 14 †.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 14:1-14 NRSVue

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

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Christ!