

May 22, 2011 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Readings from Scripture

(Please be seated)

The First Reading

Acts 7:55–60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

A reading from the book of Acts.

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

A reading from First Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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." ⁷To 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," ⁸and "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. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰Once 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. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock. On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of our Lord.

The Prayers of Intercession

In this season of resurrection, we lift up to God all those in need in the church and throughout the world.

A brief silence.

O God, who calls us out of darkness, illumine your church and all who serve it. Let your light shine in its mission. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

Illumine the gift of your creation. Let your light shine in its beauty and our care of it. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

Illumine the nations of the world with peace and prosperity. Let your light shine in the work of our world's leaders. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

Illumine the needs of the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the dying (*especially*). Let your light shine through those who care for them. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

Illumine the needs of the people of this congregation. Let your light shine in our joys and heal our sorrows. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our Prayer

Illumine the lives of all the baptized (*especially those who have died in faith*). Let your light shine through the promise of salvation. Lord in you mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your care, O God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, trusting your promise of new life in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

St. Paul's Prayer List ☞ Weekly update to the May Vision

Norm Benner
Bob Mackon
Dorothy Mohr – *at home*
Jeff Gruskaw, *Son In Law - F & D Lechner*
Gary Peterman, *Brother - F & D Lechner*

Sandy Roth - *At home*
Marianne Schatz
Dean Steinman – *Nephew of Ida Benner*
Kevin Steinman– *Nephew of Ida Benner*
Barry Troxel

Please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter for other names on our prayer list. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

In our thoughts and prayers Roberta (Renninger) Landis and family over the death of her husband Jim Landis this past Friday. Roberta is the daughter of the late Arthur & Irma Renninger. The family resides in Folsom, CA.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Grace and Raymond Kline by son Richard and family

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul Sell presented by wife Mildred and family.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Matthew Miller who died May 20, 2010 by Bonnie Nimerfroh and wife Geraldine Miller.

The Bulletin is given to the glory of God and in honour of the birthdays of Blake and Kent Bergey, by Sandra and Kermit Bergey.

Capital Improvement Fund ~ We have currently received a total of \$63,889. in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

<i>Elevator Fund</i> ~	Gifts Previously Committed	\$55,000.00
	Gifts Received as of 5.10.11	\$12,230.00
	Total	\$67,230.00

Elevator Project Update ~ Continues to be under construction. Anticipated completion date June 24, 2011 due to a delay in shipment of parts.

St. Paul's Community Emergency Fund ~ We have become aware of two families in the community who need assistance with medical and grocery expenses due to extraordinary circumstances facing their respective families. Both families are hard working and have not asked for any assistance. Any contributions to our Community Emergency Fund would be appreciated and will provide support to these two families at this time. Checks may be made out to "St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Red Hill" and placed in an envelop marked "Community Emergency Fund." with your name and envelope #. The envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Questions, please speak to Bonnie Bonser or Pastor Vanderslice.

Vacation Bible School ~ look for our registration form on our website or in the information rack in Fellowship Hall. June 20-24th from 9-11:30 a.m.. Ages 3~6th grade. Volunteers please contact Bonnie Bonser. 216-679-5553 ext 125

~ This Week at St. Paul's ~

Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Jr. Youth Group	10:30 AM
	Generations Choir – <i>resumes in September</i>	
	Bell Choir – <i>resumes in September</i>	
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM
Monday	Praise Team Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Tuesday	Finance Committee	6:45 PM
	Congregational Council	7:30 PM
Wednesday	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
Thursday	Evening Bible Study at home of Bonnie Bonser	7:00 PM
Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Youth Group 8 th to 12 th grade	4:15 PM
	Generations Choir – <i>resumes in September</i>	
	Bell Choir – <i>resumes in September</i>	
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM

~ Today's Worship Assistants ~

Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Sandy Landis	
Assistant	8:00 AM	Nancy Yerger	10:30 AM Debbie Turofski
Ushers	9:15 AM	Ed & Sheila Kraus	
	10:30 AM	Brian Stever, Frank & Chad Grim	
Monday		Fern Roth, Linnny Genszler, D. Brendlinger	

June 26 (last Sunday of June)~ Commissioning of our 2011 Appalachia Service Project team is being held at the 9: 15 AM Service this morning . This year's home repairs team will travel to Clay County, KY. Team members will include:

Group 1:	Group 2:	Group 3:	Group 4:
Joe DeCarlo	Matt Stever	Christ Brust	Ron Rodenberger
Larry Weiss	Amy Stever	Gary Hager	John Sheeran
Jamie Mauer	Dan Elliot	Josh Hager	Christopher McKinstry
Blake Weiss	Colin Smith	Katlyn Davies	Nick Hager
Emily Lachman	Kelsey Sheeran	Kyra Paul-Fowler	Justin Lesko
	Taylor Pijanowski	Morgan Klavon	William Sole
	Alex Sole		

Geranium Sponsorship for Pentecost Sunday, June 12th

We will be taking orders now through **May 22nd** for geraniums to decorate the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th and then to be planted in the church flower beds.

Please Return this form to the church office, or place in the offering plates. Each pot of branched multiple blooms costs **\$4.00**. **Please have exact change or make checks out to St. Paul's.**

Number of plants _____

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

_____ *to the glory of God*

_____ *Please use to beautify church flower beds.*

_____ *I would like to pick up my plant following the service on Sunday, June 12th*

