

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4 & 7, 2023

He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

Opening Hymn	914, "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"
Order of Service.....	Setting One, Page 154
Prayer of the Day: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.	
FIRST READING	
Psalm of the Day (<i>On Insert</i>).....	Psalm 9A
SECOND READING	
Gospel Acclamation	Page 161
Gospel Acclamation Verse: <i>I am the way and the truth and the life. / * No one comes to the Father except through me.</i>	
GOSPEL	
Hymn of the Day	512, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
SERMON.....	"You Are Privileged People" 1 Peter 2:4-10
Offering Hymn	754 v. 2, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness"
Nicene Creed	Pages 162-163
Communion Liturgy	Page 165
Communion Hymn.....	668, "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"
Closing Liturgy	Page 170
Closing Hymn	816 vv. 1-3, "I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"

FIRST READING: Acts 4:8-12

St. Peter told the Jewish leaders that the man they had crucified was raised to life and therefore is the only man in whom salvation is found.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:4-10

The claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven is like a stone over which unbelievers stumble. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.

As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame. Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall. Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-11

Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. You know where I am going, and you know the way."

"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

"Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

"Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart.

ANNUAL GROUNDS INSPECTION: All church council members are reminded that our annual grounds inspection will take place at the **Wednesday (May 10)** council meeting. This meeting will begin at **6:30 PM!**

*****ELDERS**—please be reminded that your meeting will begin at **6:00 PM** that evening.

THE EXAMINATION of this year's eighth grade confirmation class will take place next **Sunday, May 14**. They will be confirmed at the **Sunday, May 21**, worship service. This year's confirmands are: Sidney Daley, Hunter Lang, Gavin Moldenhauer, Luke Stern, Preston Taylor, and Janel Youngbeck.

In addition, Kimberley Callies will also be confirmed at the May 21 worship service. Kimberley has studied the Christian faith with Pastors Drake, Kesting, and Mose through the Trinity Community Center classes and will be examined with those students at St. Paul's, Neosho.

ALTAR OFFERING: This year's altar offering will be taken on **Thursday, May 18**, and **Sunday, May 21**. The money received has been designated as follows: 100% to the Church Refurbishment Fund. Please look for the special envelope marked **Altar Offering** in your envelope packets.

AREA ASCENSION SERVICE: This year's Area Ascension worship service will be held on **Thursday, May 18**, at **6:30 PM** at **St. John's, Lomira**. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this special worship service. Because of this service, there will be **no** Thursday evening worship service at St. Matthew's that night.

WALL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: Our school will be hosting this year's WALL Softball Tournament on **Friday – Saturday, May 19-20**, at the Iron Ridge Firemen's Park. All are invited and encouraged to come down and cheer our team on as well as enjoy the concessions which will be served throughout the tournament. If you would be willing to help in any way (i.e. working concessions, grilling, providing donations, setting up, cleaning up), please speak with Kevin Lorge as soon as possible. We need all the help we can get with this big of an endeavor! There will be 11 teams involved and all their families in attendance!

WE THANK the students in Gr. 4K-2 for their wonderful song on Sunday!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by Brian & Cheri Youngbeck in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 21; Sunday: 90

Offerings: \$5,013.08

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,889.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$140.00

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

Monday: School Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Wednesday: Elders' Meeting **6:00 PM!!**
Church Council (**Annual Grounds Inspection**) **6:30 PM!!**

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM
Adult Choir 8:00 PM

SCRIP ORDERS DUE

Sunday: Worship Service (**Examination Sunday**) 9:00 AM
MOTHER'S DAY

9A Come, Sing to God with All Your Heart

Psalm 9A



1 Come, sing to God with all your heart; give
2 For, Ho - ly One, you take our part; your
3 You are a shel - ter for the poor, a
4 The vio - lent move in vi - cious stealth to
5 Rise up, O LORD; for blood cries out. Bring



thanks to God Most High, who makes the ruth - less
ways are al - ways just. You stop the ty - rants
strong - hold in dis - tress. You care for all who
dig their vic - tims' grave. Come, snare them in the
jus - tice! Raise your hand. Then we will tell how



fall from pow'r and res - cues those who cry.
in their tracks and turn their names to dust.
trust in you and all who are op - pressed.
nets they cast. Come, Might - y God, and save!
you have saved. Your praise will fill the land.

Text: Ruth C. Duck
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