

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2026**



The Stoning of St. Stephen

Rembrandt 1625, oil painting on a wood panel and currently exhibited at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one
comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14:6***

CP 302 They Did Not Build in Vain

1 They did not build in vain
who founded here a church
as witness to God's love
amid a world of pain,
for still, to those who wish to see,
this place proclaims God's mystery.

2 They built upon the rock
that is the risen Lord,
the one foundation laid
which stands each earthly shock;
that, Spirit filled, we here might raise,
as living temples, prayer and praise.

3 Those who have loved this place,
a cloud of witnesses,
surround and urge us on
as we now run our race,
and so we lay aside each sin
in our desire to strive and win.

4 Though the horizon's bend
conceals the way ahead,
the footprints on the road
show Christ waits at the end;
in him alone our faith shall stand
who waits for us at God's right hand.

5 In every place our world
is storm and tempest tossed;
the flames of fear and hate
are evil's flags unfurled;
yet still the Spirit's wind and fire
pour gifts for service in this hour.

6 Here is our meeting place,
where doubt finds grounds of faith;
where hurt finds healing love,
our penitence your grace;
where bridging time to eternity
is God the holy Trinity.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 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.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *Refrain: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*

31:1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me;

31:2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

31:3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

31:4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

31:5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

31:15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

31:16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

A Reading from Acts 7:55-60

7:55 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.

7:56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

7:57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

7:58 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.

7:59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

7:60 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CP 450 You Call Us Lord to Be

1 You call us, Lord, to be
 a people set apart,
 to feel with thoughtful mind
 and think with tender heart.
 Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
 for faith in your unfailing grace
 to make us equal to the task.

2 You call us, Lord, to care
 for self and neighbour too,
 to take the risk, and dare
 to show what love can do.
 Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
 for faith in your unfailing grace
 to make us equal to the task.

3 You call us, Lord, to be
 good stewards of the earth;
 to tend to it as a place
 of blessedness and worth.
 Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
 for faith in your unfailing grace
 to make us equal to the task.

4 You call us, Lord, to serve:
 to die that we may live,
 to know we best receive
 when joyfully we give.
 Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask
 for faith in your unfailing grace
 to make us equal to the task.

A Reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10

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

2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2:4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and

2:5 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.

2:6 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."

2:7 This honor, then, is for you 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,"

2:8 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.

2:9 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.

2:10 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 620 How Sweet th Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

4 Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.

5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:1-14

14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

14:2 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?

14:3 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.

14:4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

14:7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

14:8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

14:9 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'?"

14:10 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.

14:11 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.

14:12 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.

14:13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 6271639 Abba Father

1 Abba Father we approach You
In our Savior's precious name
We Your children here assembled
Now Your promised blessing claim
From our sins His blood has washed us
Now we can draw nigh
By the power of Your Spirit
Abba Father now we cry
Abba Father now we cry

2 Once as prodigals we wandered
Hating what was all our need
But Your grace o'er sin abounding
Rescued us from misery
You the prodigals have pardoned
Kissed us with Your love
Spread the feast and now You've called us
E'er to dwell with You above

E'er to dwell with You above

Bridge

You have found Your once lost children
They now live who once were dead
It is right we hear You saying
For My people to be glad

3 Abba Father all adore You
Shout Your praise in Heav'n above
While in us they learn the wonders
Of Your wisdom grace and love
Soon before Your throne assembled
Gladly we'll proclaim
Glory everlasting glory
Be to God and to the Lamb
Be to God and to the Lamb

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Lord we thank you that you have been beside us in the last week and that you have walked with us whatever the path we have followed. We bring our petitions to you in faith saying Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer

Lord, we ask that you walk with all people throughout the world who are in need of your presence and support. May your sustaining presence be with those affected by political unrest, civil disturbance or war. With those affected by famine, drought or extreme conditions of climate. We remember today the work of all who offer aid and pray that their vision of an end to world poverty may be fulfilled. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We ask that you will walk with the people of your Church on earth.

- in the world-wide communion for the Church of North India (United)

- for the Diocese of Rupert's Land: the Rt. Rev. Naboth Manzongo, Bishop.

- for St. Timothy, Edmonton: Jordan Giggey, Rector; Janette Chambers, Parish Administrator.

- for the Buyé Diocese clergy at school: Amos Mutezimana and Audace Kwizera (Bishop Barham University College, Kabale, Uganda).

- for the people and the communities of the Enoch Cree Nation.

We pray for Christian communities everywhere, especially those who are persecuted for their faith. Walk with the congregations and friends of this Diocese of Edmonton and her Bishop Stephen and this parish church at St. Peter's and all who serve you in this place; lead us, Lord, to be a people committed to the Gospel, to our history, to our present reality and to a revitalized and exciting future. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, be alongside all who lack direction and need you to guide their way. All in prison, living on the streets or in refuges. Those addicted to alcohol or drugs, all who feel cast out by society. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, walk with all who are on the journey of pain and ill health. We bring before you all those who have requested our prayers:

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy and family..... Louise A..... Sandra A..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone

Support the weak, help all in pain or distress, give wisdom and direction to their relatives and friends when they don't know what to do for the best. We pray for all in hospital, care home or hospice. We remember all health workers. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died, and we remember that you are the light of the world which eternally shines in the darkness and always brings hope, a light no darkness can quench. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 569 Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

1 Come, my Way, my Truth my Life:
 such a way as gives us breath,
 such a truth as ends all strife,
 such a life as killeth death.

3 Come, my joy, my Love, my Heart:
 such a joy as none can move,
 such a love as none can part,
 such a heart as joys in love.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
 such a light as shows a feast,
 such a feast as mends in length,
 such a strength as makes his guest.

The Dismissal

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one
 comes to the Father, but by me. *John 14:6***

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
 ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.