

**5th Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

"In the Secret"

In the secret,
In the quiet place
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour
I wait, only for You
Because I want to know You more.

[Chorus:]

I want to know you
I want to hear your voice
I want to know you more
I want to touch you
I want to see you face
I want to know you more

I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward,
Pushing every hindrance aside,
Out of my way
Cause I want to know you more

Words & Music: Andy Park
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CCLI#1963157

Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Acts 4]

Leader: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather to share our faith and to worship God.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: We gather to proclaim the Good News found in Christ!

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Adoration

#263, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," vs. 1, 2, 3

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race

Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

And crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe

On this terrestrial ball

To him all majesty ascribe,

And crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe,

And crown him Lord of all!

Text: Stanzas 1-3 Edward Perronet-1779, stanzas, 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787

Stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787

Music: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young 1979

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Prayer of Confession

[time of silent personal confession]

All: Almighty Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we know that we

offend you by minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and half-hearted. Have mercy upon us Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[Based on 1 Peter 2: 24]

Leader: Hear the Good News. Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;

People: By his wounds we have been healed. Praise God.

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."

After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#2244, "People Need the Lord," Sing the Faith Hymnal

People need the Lord, people need the Lord
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door

People need the Lord, people need the Lord
When will we realize people need the Lord?

Words & Music: Greg Wilson & Phill McHugh

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Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Acts 7: 44-60

44 [Stephen continued,] "Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. 45 Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, 46 who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. 47 But it was Solomon who built the house for him.

48 "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: 49 "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? 50 Has not my hand made all these things? "

51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the

Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — 53 you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.”

54 When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Sermon

“To Infinity & Beyond... Putting 4 Walls Around God”

Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn of Response

#69, “Here I Am, Lord,”

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard My people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak My words to them
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them

My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give My life to them
Whom shall I send?

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

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Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Meal

[based on from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 79]

Leader: During the last supper, Christ called the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood. Christ has good reason for these words.

People: Jesus wants to teach us that just as this bread and juice nourish our temporal life, so too does Christ's crucified body and poured-out blood truly nourish our souls for eternal life.

Leader: But even more importantly, Jesus wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood.

People: As surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance, all of Christ's suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins.

Word's of Institution

Prayer for the Spirit

Partaking of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and what we remember through it, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same.

People: God, ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. So we might live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your Kingdom. Lord, hear us now as we pray the prayer your son taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. 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.

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“My Soul Says Yes,” Chicago Mass Choir

*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2163, “He Who Began a Good Work in You,” Sing the Faith Hymnal

He who began a good work in you

He who began a good work in you

Will be faithful to complete it

Will be faithful to complete it

He who started the work

Will be faithful to complete it in you

Words & Music: Jon Mohr

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able