



the STONES
would shout

Hear God's Word and Keep It The Stones Would Shout

Mid-week Lenten Service February 24, 2021

(Please turn off your wifi and wear your masks when singing.)

Erhalt Uns, Herr (LSB 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"): 1 Peter 2:4-9

1. What firm foundation undergirds
All those who build on God's sure words.
Says Christ, as children's praise rings out,
"If these were still, the stones would shout!"

2. Built on the rock by Christ's own hand,
The Church of God unmoved shall stand;
For Christ, who is the cornerstone,
Has claimed his children as his own.

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

C: For it says 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."

P: To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

C: The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

P: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 4:1-16

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold,

you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

P: This is the Word of the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Responsive Psalmody from Psalm 121

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

P: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For

everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

P: This is the Gospel of the LORD!

C: Thanks be to Christ!

A Hymn: LSB 562, "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon
 2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in
 3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and
 4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
 dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our
 deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
 sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our



curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
 in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
 dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
 light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

5 As by one man all mankind fell
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
 So by one Man, who took our place,
 We all were justified by grace.

6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
 New light, new hope, new strength, new
 pow'rs.
 This grace our ev'ry way attend
 Until we reach our journey's end.

Tune and text: Public domain

A Sermon: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

A Creedal Hymn (Tune: "How Firm a Foundation", LSB 728)

1. Our God is a Rock, the Creator of all.
His wonderful deeds let his people recall.
How firm a foundation our Maker provides,
Whose word, breaking darkness, forever abides.
2. The stone once rejected – Christ Jesus alone –
Is made for our faith a secure cornerstone.
He died for our sins and was raised from the
grave.
He will come again, his believers to save.
3. The Church, firmly built on the rock, still shall
stand
When all else has crumbled like quick-shifting
sand,
God's people, forgiven, shall triumph o'er
death,
The Spirit inspiring with life-giving breath.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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 forever and ever. Amen.**

A Hymn: "Rock of Ages" LSB 761 (verses 1-2)



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Closing: Psalm 31:1-3, 5

P: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame.

C: In your righteousness deliver me.

P: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

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

P: Into your hand I commit my spirit.

C: You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.



**The Closing Hymn: LSB 880 "Now Rest Beneath
Night's Shadow" (verses 1, 4, 5)**



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your
5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.
night will sure - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing
Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text and tune: Public domain

Worshippers will be ushered out. Please wait for the usher to come to your pew. If you prefer to leave by the front entrance, please use the middle aisle. If you prefer to leave by the back entrance, please use the outside aisles. Please make every effort to maintain proper social distancing as you leave the church building. Thank you!

Please put your kneeler down before exiting the pew.

Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

St. James Church Office: 363-7718

Secretary e-mail: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com