

Welcome in the Name of The Triune God

**April 18, 2021
3rd Sunday of Easter**



- **Prelude by Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte**
- **Ringling of the Bell**

**Scripture Focus:
Stephen's Witness**

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism...*

**P: We confess our sins before God and
one another.**

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Risen Lord,

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: We admit that we are slow to believe, and even slower to follow where you lead us. We doubt your promise, divide your people, and fail to proclaim the power of your resurrection. We choose to live small lives when you have given us the biggest gift of all: your eternal life.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Forgive us. Raise us up to a place where we can serve you faithfully.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Christ is arisen, bringing gifts of life, mercy and pardon for sin! Believe that you are forgiven, and go out and live in the joy of your Lord's resurrection in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Amen.

* Hymn of Praise

I Love to Tell the
Story

LBW 390

(Verses 1-3)



* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.

* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

**3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.**

* I Love to Tell the Story LBW 390

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

* APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Gracious God, The risen Lord walked with his disciples and turned their grief into joy. Walk also with us along our path of service and cheer us with your presence.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Amen.

• Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60

R: The Scripture reading is from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 6 and 7.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Glory to you O' Lord! (*Spoken*)

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

Chapter 6

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say,

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

“We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”¹² They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council.¹³ They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law;¹⁴ for we have heard him say that

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.”¹⁵ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Chapter 7

Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?”² And Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.”

44“Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. 45Our ancestors in turn brought it in with

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, ⁴⁶who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, ⁴⁹'Heaven

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? ⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?’

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.

⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

teeth at Stephen. 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.

⁵⁶“Look,” 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

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

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.

• **Scripture Reading Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60**

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)



Sermon



Special Music

* NICENE CREED

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

* NICENE CREED

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

* NICENE CREED

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

**C: he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

* NICENE CREED

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

* NICENE CREED

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

**C: We acknowledge one
Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins. We look for the
resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with the words,

A: God of Wisdom,

The congregation will respond with:

C: Hear our prayer.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayer concludes...

P: Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: And also with you.



OFFERING PRAYER

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: We pray as Jesus taught...

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

**C: 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,**

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

C: Amen.

* SENDING SONG

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

**Mine Eyes Have
Seen the Glory**

**LBW 332
Verses 1 - 2**



*Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory LBW 332

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where
the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.

*Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory LBW 332

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

Refrain

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

*Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory LBW 332

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

2 He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men
before his judgment seat.
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him;
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

*Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory LBW 332

The congregation may sing with facemasks on:

Refrain

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

* DISMISSAL

P: Until we gather again as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love,

The congregation may respond with facemasks on:

**C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all.
Amen!**

Postlude by Roxanne Groff

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