

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Color: White
Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]
[Acts 7:55–60](#) (*The martyrdom of Stephen, who prayed: Jesus, receive my spirit*)
[Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16](#) (*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit*)
[1 Peter 2:2–10](#) (*God's chosen people, built into a temple like living stones*)
[John 14:1–14](#) (*Christ the way, truth, and life*)

Themes: Holy Spirit, Trust, Foundation, Lament, Comfort

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Be Still, My Soul (FINLANDIA)	Acts, Psalms
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (WESTMINSTER ABBEY; REGENT SQUARE)	1 Peter
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (REPTON; REST)	Acts
God Is Here (ABBOT'S LEIGH)	1 Peter
How Firm a Foundation (FOUNDATION)	Acts, 1 Peter
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (DOVE OF PEACE)	1 Peter, John
I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath (OLD 113 TH)	Acts
Jesus, Lover of My Soul (ABERYSTWYTH)	Psalms, Acts
Lead Me, Guide Me (LEAD ME, GUIDE ME)	Psalms, Acts
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (SOLID ROCK)	1 Peter
Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (CAMPMEETING; BEATITUDO)	Acts
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (MIT FREUDEN ZART)	1 Peter
The Church's One Foundation (AURELIA)	1 Peter, John
To God Be the Glory (TO GOD BE THE GLORY)	John
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (LEMMEL)	Acts
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters (BEACH SPRING)	1 Peter
We Are God's People (SYMPHONY)	1 Peter

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

The Call - E John
John Leavitt
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-3081
2-Part Treble, Keyboard

Christ Alone - M John
William Beckstrand
© 2018, MorningStar Music, 50-6107
2-Part Treble, Keyboard, opt. Handbells

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life - M John
Michael Larkin
© 2014, Augsburg Fortress, 978-1-4514-9244-6
SATB, Piano

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name - M 1 Peter, John
GROSSER GOTT/John Ferguson, arr.
© 1988, GIA, G-3167
SATB, opt. Congregation, Organ, Brass (4)

How Firm a Foundation - M 1 Peter
FOUNDATION /Emma Lou Diemer, arr.
© 1981, Hinshaw Music, HMC-527
SATB, opt. Congregation, Organ, opt. Brass, Perc.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - ME John
DUKE STREET/John A. Behnke, arr.
© 1995, Concordia Publishing, 98-3197
SAB, Organ, opt. Handbells, Trumpet

I'm Building Me a Home - MD Acts, 1 Peter
African-American Spiritual/Anthony Trecek-King, arr.
© 2018, Walton Music, WW1666
SATB divisi, a cappella

My Jesus, I Love Thee - M John
GORDON/Paul Sjolund, arr.
© 1987, Hinshaw Music, HMC-935
SATB, Keyboard, Flute (or Violin)

My Hope Is Built - M Luke
SOLID ROCK/Tom Trenney, arr.
© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-6093
SATB divisi, Piano

Peace I Leave With You - M John
Walter Pelz
© 1963, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-4565-6
SATB, a cappella

-- Youth and Children --

Shine On Us with "Be Thou My Vision" - E Acts
Michael W. Smith and *SLANE* /Benjamin Harlan, arr.
© 2017, Alfred Publishing Co., No. 46871
SATB, Keyboard

Christ Alone - M 1 Peter, John
William Beckstrand
© 2018, MorningStar Music, 50-6107
Unison/2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Handbells

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Too often, we have wielded that word of welcome as an exclusionary warning. Become a follower of Jesus or else. There is only one path that leads to eternal life, only one gate that will open to the fabulous abode God has prepared for you. Instead, this was a word of hopefulness as well as a promise about the present. According to Jesus, there is a powerful correlation between the actions of the Father and those of the Son. If you've seen Jesus and the things he has done, then you have actually drawn near to God.

—Eric Barretto, Day1.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 31)

You have gathered us together once again as your people, O God.

In your presence, we take refuge; we are safe. In your righteousness, you deliver us.

In this hour of worship, incline your ear to us:

Hear our prayers, bless our meditations, receive our offering, dance to our singing, and infuse power to our proclamation.

In our worship, O Lord, let your face shine upon us.

Save us in your unfailing love and send us forth with your benediction. Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

Everlasting God, what a gift it is that you are our parent, and we are your children! We are grateful that you have called us together in this moment to worship you. We thank you for the rich gift of Christ's love and acceptance that welcomed us into worship. May we share that spirit as we depart from this place, energized to serve your world. Amen.

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Eternal God, you have called us to be living stones, built into a spiritual house, acceptable to you through Christ Jesus our Lord. Far too often we have misunderstood this teaching. We have considered the church building to be your spiritual house, rather than the edifice of our hearts. This has caused us to believe that we go to church on Sunday mornings rather than be the church every day of the week. We confess our failures, those places where we have fallen down, and ask you to build us back up—as living stones—to be the people you need us to be in this world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have confessed our sins before God and one another. In the name of our Risen Lord, we are forgiven, we are healed, we are restored.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, you are always more ready to give than receive. May we be like you. May we give liberally of our time, may we give generously of our money, and may we even give our lives for the sake of your work in this world. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, open wide each heart and mind
By your own Spirit, now we pray,
That in your scriptures we may find
New strength to serve you every day. Amen.

—Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, from her hymn *Your Word is Like a Lamp, O Lord*, found in *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press, 2000)

BENEDICTION

Go in peace, depart in love. And may the grace of God, which shines through the darkness, illuminate your path. Go forth from this place with the assurance that God is our rock and our refuge; therefore, we are never alone.

God is always with us. Amen.

*Thanks to Daniel E. Glaze for his contributions to this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor