



REJOICE FELLOWSHIP

A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worshipping at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090

and online at facebook.com/RejoiceFellowshipGlenBurnie

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July 25, 2021 | 10:00 am

Matthew 23:34-39

Feast Day of Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Pastor Maddie Tallman

C: indicates spoken responses by the congregation
P: indicates the Presiding Minister
A: indicates the Assisting Minister

Welcome to worship at Rejoice Fellowship! July 18th is our very first in-person worship service since March of last year. Helpful instructions for various parts of our worship will be included throughout this bulletin at relevant places. If you have any questions, please ask a greeter.

Please note that currently we are asking everyone to wear a mask during worship, out of an abundance of love, respect and concern for those who are unvaccinated, especially our children. Thank you.

✠ Gathering ✠

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: You are loved and forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

SHOW ME YOUR WAYS

Words and Music by
Russell Fragar

$\text{♩} = 116$ VERSE

G/A D Em/D D Bm⁷ Em/B Bm⁷ G



Show me Your ways — that I may walk with — You, show me Your

5 CHORUS

D Em/D D Bm⁷ Em/B Bm⁷ F#m/A G D/F#



ways, — I put my hope in — You; The cry of my heart is to

10 Em⁷ A A/G F#m⁷



love — You more, to live with the touch of Your hand, strong - er each

13 Em¹¹ G²/A D



day, — show me Your ways. —

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Grant that we also may pray for our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who hurt us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ Word ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60

8Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freed Slaves (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, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted Stephen, seized him, and brought him before the council. 13They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; 14for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." 15And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

7:1Then the high priest asked him "Are these things so?" 2aAnd Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. 51You are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. 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 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 Stephen out of the city 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.

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 23:34-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 23rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 34“Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, 35so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. 36Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. 37“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38See, your house is left to you, desolate. 39For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MADDIE TALLMAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to safely share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another. Please respect the boundaries of those present, as not everyone will be comfortable shaking hands or hugging yet.

✠ Meal ✠

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

Rejoice Fellowship is blessed by your generosity! Tithes and offerings can be given in a few ways: 1) electronically by clicking here: <https://rb.gy/ryhn0m>; 2) physical checks/cash can be placed in the plate as you enter our service this morning (please alert a greeter if you require assistance); and 3) physical checks/cash can be mailed to our office at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090. Thank you for opening your heart!

OFFERING PRAYER

C: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and faithfulness endures for age to age... Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray,

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

If you have joined us in person, you will be guided to the front to receive communion. If you would like communion brought to you, please let a greeter know.

While our practice is usually to include bread and a cup, we are following the guidance of our Delaware Maryland Synod ELCA and communing in "one kind," that is, just with bread for now. Our theological understanding of Holy Communion is that receiving one element, like simply the bread, is still receiving the entire sacrament. You are welcome to the table.

If you are joining us through Facebook Live, we invite you to gather your own bread and wine or juice to receive the sacrament with us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

✠Sending ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION BUILDER UPDATE

BLESSING

P: Grace from God's own heart, peace from ✠ Jesus Christ, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

HERE I AM, LORD



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

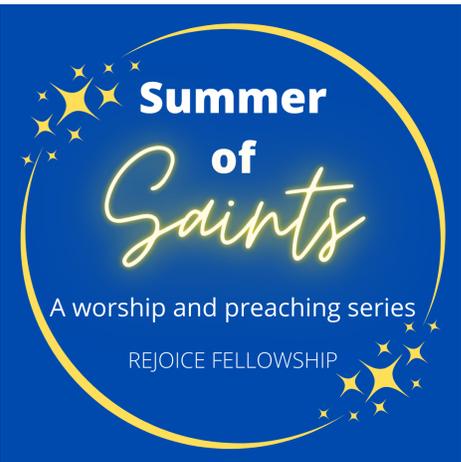
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Announcements

New Summer Worship and Sermon Series!

The Bible has a lot of unfamiliar characters in it, doesn't it? A lot of folks whose names we may have heard before, but we may know almost nothing about them. This summer, we'll be diving deeper into some of the lives of a few saints in our ancestry of faith.

The Christian church calendar includes various "Feast days" throughout the year, commemorating the life of various early Christians. Their lives inform our own faith today. These saints help to teach us what it looks like to live out faith. This summer, every Sunday will be a feast! A Feast Day that is. Each week we will observe a festival in honor of one of our biblical ancestors, reading scripture that highlights their lives and their witness to Jesus Christ and also reflecting on what it means for us today. Get ready to feast!



Here's the schedule for the rest of the summer:

August 1: Commemoration of Saint Lydia

August 8: Commemoration of Phoebe

August 15: Feast of Mary, Mother of our Lord

August 22: Feast of Bartholomew, Apostle

Each week we will post a short biography and commentary about the saint in the e-letter.

What's Happening This Week

Sun., July 25	Worship – 10am in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's, and on FB Live
Mon., July 26	Offering Counted
Tues., July 27	Council Meeting – 6:30pm
Wed., July 28	
Thurs., July 29	
Fri., July 30	
Sat., July 31	Annex Work Day