

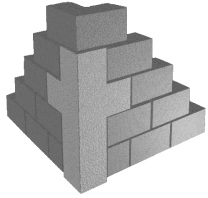
LOGOS

The word from Word of Life

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May-June 2020

DORMANT OR ALIVE?



A few years back, well maybe many years, a special pet arrived on the scene. Placed in a box with a handle, holes cut in the side for air, and straw for a bed, a smooth flat rock was given a home. A Pet Rock! Children liked having a pet they could carry around. Wikipedia gives more information about the story behind these pets, plus there are pictures of rocks that have been enhanced in beauty with paint. No matter what is done to the exterior of rocks, they remain hard, cold, and do not love you back.

In perusing through the scriptures that will be read in May, there were references to a “living stone”. We don’t usually think of stones as “living” but there it is, in 1 Peter 2:4 ‘As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.’

As this chapter continues, other sources in the Bible are quoted with references to words such as cornerstone, stone, and rock. These sources are verses found in Isaiah 28, Psalm 118 and Isaiah 8. To a builder, the word cornerstone is very important in the design of a building. This stone is the first one placed and the remainder of the building evolves from it. As it says in the previous paragraph, this living Stone was chosen by God and is very precious to him. God has chosen Jesus Christ to be the cornerstone of the “spiritual house” that he is building. Any structure, no matter what kind, needs more than one stone and that is where believers in Christ also become “living stones”. If we are stones (inanimate, cold, hard) how do we come alive?

Two answers to this question are found in the readings for May 21st (The Ascension of Our Lord) and May 31st (Day of Pentecost). Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, he reminded them that they had been promised a gift from God, the Holy Spirit, and when this gift is given to them they would be emboldened to go out and be his witnesses in the world. Acts 1:1-11 On Pentecost Sunday we read in Acts 2 the account of the Disciples, and many others, receiving the gift of Holy Spirit. But what about us? On the day of our Baptism we also receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We need this power within us to remain faithful to our Father and to be living stones as part of the “spiritual house” that God is building.



Ascension of Our Lord—May 21, 2020
Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44:53

Cut on this line, insert in Bible!

Worship Texts for May					
Date		1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
May 3	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 10	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 17	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:16-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 24	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	Psalm 68:1-10	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 31	Day of Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30	Psalm 25:1-15	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39

WHAT MATTERS

How is it that faith that once was vibrant and fervent can become dull and silent? When faith is lost, spiritual attack – that tremendous challenge to faith – has triumphed. So, what keeps faith alive in the face of spiritual attack? But even more fundamentally: what *creates* faith? How can there be faith at all?

There is only one answer: Faith comes through the word: “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” Rom 10:17. “Those who are attentive to the word find happiness,” it says in the Proverbs (16:20). So now we want to seek our happiness and ponder this saying.

But to what word do we pay heed? There are *many* words, words and voices that speak to us, that want our attention and promise happiness. What is the *one* word that breaks into this jumble, creates clarity, and brings *true* happiness? The word essentially is God’s *name* “I am the **LORD** your God!” Exodus 20:2. The original promise has come close to us in the form of a human being: in the life, suffering and death of Jesus Christ, so that through the Son in the Holy Spirit we not only hear God’s name – his grace and mercy – but also taste and see it. God is with us: He walks with us, He speaks for us, He steps in for us, He defends us.

All things good and useful to life can become your idol if you hang your heart on them, if you rely on them completely, if you look to them to promise you a final fulfillment and in this sense true happiness. As temporal and finite beings kept in God’s eternity by attending to his word and trusting him, we can gratefully receive the happiness God grants us without ourselves wanting to eternalize it.

God himself has given us the weapon in our hands, in our ears and in our heart, with which we are to defend ourselves when our life is under attack. That weapon is his own word, in which he is with us and creates our faith and preserves our life so that we can pray: “My heart holds up to you your word: ‘Seek my face!’ Therefore, your face, Lord, do I seek” Psalm 27:8.

Portions from a lecture printed in the *Lutheran Forum*, Fall 2019, Pages 43-46 written by Oswald Bayer, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of the Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, Germany.

9 Years of Praise and Thanksgiving!

We at Word of Life Lutheran have depended on the Lord to sustain us through these 9 years. The Lord is our refuge and into His hands we have committed our lives to Him in worship and adoration.



Flag Day—June 14th

Word of Life Core Values

- *Jesus is Lord.*
- *Jesus is our guide.*
- *Forgiveness of sin leads to healing.*
- *Prayer changes things.*
- *Faith is God’s gracious gift that saves.*



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Worship Texts for June

Date		1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
June 7	Holy Trinity Sunday	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20
June 14	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 19:2-8	Psalm 100	Romans 5:6-15	Matt 9:35-10:8(9-20)
June 21	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Psalm 91:1-10 (11-16)	Romans 6:12-23	Matt 10:5a, 21-33
June 28	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Psalm 119:153-160	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 10:34-42