As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

We Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid: Jesus is risen!
This is the day the Lord has made,
when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell
and rose victorious from the grave.
How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,
is your mercy and loving-kindness to us,
that to redeem a slave,
you gave a Son.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!
OPENING LITANY
We are the people of Zion!
A city on a hill, a light that cannot be hid!
Following Jesus
Everyone is welcome here!
Following Jesus
We equip each other for ministry!
Following Jesus
We are sent to serve our neighbor!
This is the day the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN OF PRAISE
Refrain
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY
The Lord be with you!
And also with you!
Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16
1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.  
2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.  
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.  
4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.  
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.  
15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

We Hear & Respond to God’s Word

YOUTH MESSAGE

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60
A reading from Acts:

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] 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!” 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:2-10
A reading from First Peter:

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 5 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. 6 For it stands 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.” 7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” 8 and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a
rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
(sung) Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison.
    So let our joy rise full and free;
    Christ our comfort true will be: Alleluia!

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14
The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

    [Jesus said to the disciples:] 1"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY

“You Are the Way”

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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
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.

NICENE CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and
space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the
Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

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;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

PRAYERS

Following Each Petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.
PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING
This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING
May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN
“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!” (verses 4-5, see p. 1)

DISMISSAL
The worship has ended. Let the service begin.
Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!