

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord Jesus, you are the Living Stone from which we have our life and upon whom we place our hope. Forgive us when we rely upon ourselves. Heal our broken natures and broken hearts to follow you more fully. Help us to be truly thankful for your overwhelming love, that we may declare your glories and point others to you. Renew us, lead us, and heal us. Strengthen us to be your faithful people. Amen.

### Scripture Readings

August 3, 2008

#### Isaiah 28:16-19

So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through."

The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

#### 1 Peter 2:4-12

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men 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. For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and,

"A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

#### Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his

disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

#### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

#### Sermon Outline

*1 Peter • "A Living Hope" • "Living Stones!"*

*1 Peter 2:4-12*

**Introduction: "The Rock..."**

*"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it..." Matthew 16:18*

**A Bunch of Living Stones?!**

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Resurrected Christ.**

*"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men 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." 2:4*

- Our life: \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ.

**2. Living stones are often \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Living stones often \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message..." 2:7-8*

**3. "A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation..."**

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 2:9*

*"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." 2:12*

- " \_\_\_\_\_!"

**Answers to Sermon Outline:** vitality and the certainty,  
given and defined, rejected, get in the way, That's where God lives!