

## The Seventh Sunday of Easter ☩ May 24, 2020

***WELCOME!** In these days between the Ascension of Jesus and the Pentecost of the Holy Spirit, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's Holy Gospel reading, Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in his power, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

### THE OPENING HYMN – “Before You, Lord, We Bow”      LSB 966

- 1    Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above  
      And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love.  
      Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,  
          Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
  
- 2    The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,  
      From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.  
      For this bright day, For this fair land—  
          Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
  
- 3    May ev’ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,  
      Shine in Your Word’s pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!  
      May ev’ry tongue Be tuned to praise  
          And join to raise A grateful song.
  
- 4    Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;  
      Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.  
      Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
          And bow before The Crucified.
  
- 5    And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land  
      From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
      A countless throng, With joy to sing  
          To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!

Text: Public domain

### THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C:** **Who made heaven and earth.**      *Psalm 124:8*

**P:** If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C:** **But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**      *Psalm 130:3-4*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and to call upon him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, we have been told of your grace through Christ our Lord. We have learned of the salvation you won for all mankind, when you sent him to the cross and raised him from the grave. Bless us to hear and retain this Word of grace always, that we may share it with our children and our children's children, that they may be people who live in that grace. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE HYMN OF PREPARATION — "God Himself Is Present"**

**LSB 907**

- 1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple; All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone On His throne  
Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!
- 2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, holy, holy!" Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.
- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,  
Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You,  
May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will Ever still  
Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### **THE FIRST READING – Acts 1:12-26, ESV**

*In the first reading, the apostles gather together after Jesus' ascension to heaven, to ask for God's direction. They were seeking to fill the vacancy in their midst caused by Judas Iscariot's death. We note that they turn to both Scripture and prayer, and God provides a replacement.*

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry." (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.' Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SECOND READING – 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11, ESV**

*In the second reading, Peter speaks about God-given sufficiency—the equitable distribution of God's good gifts to all his people. Peter reminds the people that they should imitate God's generosity and distributions.*

*[Peter wrote:]* Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

[...]Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the

same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE ALLELUIA HYMN— “Now Thank We All Our God”      LSB 895**

- 1 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore

Text and Tune: Public domain

**THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 17:1-11, ESV**

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE MESSAGE**

**✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

**THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Amazing Grace”      LSB 744**

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- 5 When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Text (sts. 1s–4s): © 1991 Editorial Concordia. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001627  
Text (sts. 1–5): Public domain

## THE 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave 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.**

## THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C: Amen.**

## THE HYMN "Beautiful Savior"

**LSB 537**

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Public domain

**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**