



## **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

May 21, 2023

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

O God Beyond All Praising (Holst)

arr. Giamanco

## **WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our lives are often taken over by noise and distraction. This time allows us to sit in the silence God has granted so that we might center ourselves on God.

P Almighty God,

as we prepare to worship today,

we ask that you will stretch our imaginations

to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension.

Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven

can give us confidence in our praying

and hope for the future.

Through Jesus, our Lord.

C Amen.

## **PREPARING OUR HEARTS**

Our lives are often taken over by noise and distraction. This time allows us to sit in the silence God has granted so that we might center ourselves on God.

#### **GATHERING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.** 

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God.

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.** 



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

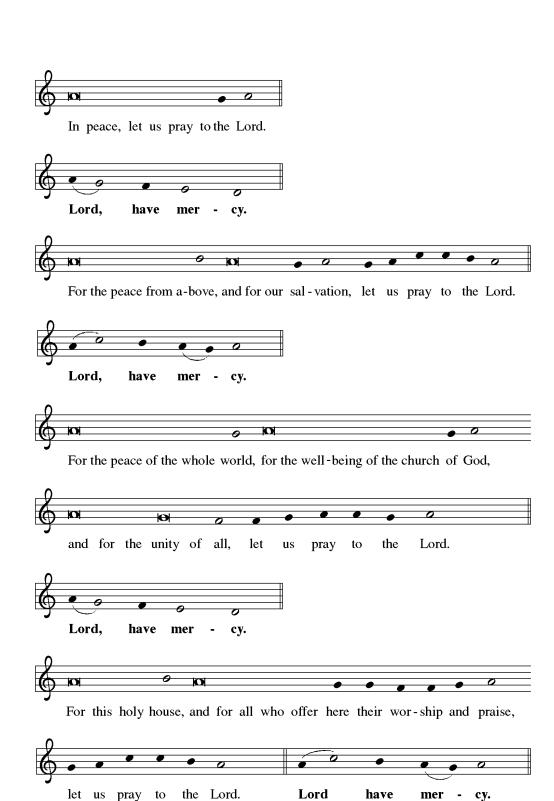
Please be seated.

## **GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

## **KYRIE**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

men.

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST LESSON Acts 1:6-14

L A reading from Acts.

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

L <sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

C <sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

L <sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

C <sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

L <sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

C éyou give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.

L <sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

# C 8the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,

## at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

L <sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

C 10 Your people found their home in it;

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

L <sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

C <sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

- L <sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
- C <sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

## SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

L A reading from 1 Peter.

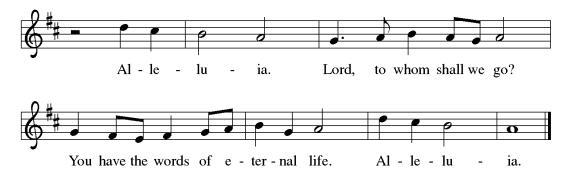
<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. L Word of God. Word of life.

## C Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL John 17:1-11**

P The holy gospel according to John.

## C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they

...continue next page

have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

P You are witness to these things.

## C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Cheryl Kussow** 

**SERMON Pastor Wes Smith** 

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song **ELW 403** Like the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of mur - mur of the her of Christ's bod - y, To the the mem - bers to branch-es With the heal - ing di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of flight, like vig wind's rush, like the the or of the church faith

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Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

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prayer,

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **RECEPTION OF MEMBERS - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

## **PRESENTATION**

P Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these holy siblings, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

#### C Amen

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

## C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in these your children the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

## **C** Amen

P Let us rejoice with these our siblings in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

<sup>\*</sup>Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. \*\* meaning - all of God's Church...

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P God of grace, together we turn to you in prayer, for it is you who unite us: you are the one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – in whom we believe, you alone empower us for good, you send us out in mission and service in the name of Christ. We confess before you and all people: We have been unworthy servants. We have misused and abused your good creation. We have wounded one another by divisions. In all this, we have fallen short as disciples of Jesus Christ who came to save us and teach us how to love. Forgive us, God, and teach us to forgive one another.

God, in your grace,

## C transform the world.

P God, hear the cries of all creation, the cries of the waters, the air, the land and all living things; the cries of all who are exploited, marginalized, abused and victimized, all who are dispossessed and silenced, their humanity ignored, all who suffer from any form of disease, from war and from the crimes of the arrogant who hide from the truth, distort memory, and impede the possibility of reconciliation. God, guide all in seats of authority, that their decisions reflect your grace and love.

God, in your grace,

## C transform the world.

P We give thanks for your blessings and signs of hope that are already present in the world, in people of all ages and in those who have gone before us in faith; and in movements to overcome violence in all its forms. Guide your people in the search for mutual understanding and respect, justice and peace – both in exceptional circumstances and every day. We thank you for the good news of Jesus Christ, and the assurance of resurrection.

God, in your grace,

## C transform the world.

P By the power and guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, may our prayers never be empty words, but an urgent response to your living Word – in non-violent direct action for positive change, and in bold acts of healing and compassion, readily sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

God, in your grace,

## C transform the world.

P Open our hearts to love and to see that all people are made in your image, to care for creation and affirm life in all its wondrous diversity. Today we pray for those in need of your healing Word. We pray especially for **Theresa**, **Marilyn**, **Dave**, **Jonny**, **Kathleen**, **Dennis**, **Janice**, **Dick**, **Georgi**, **Liam**, **Patrick**, **LCFS**, **Candice**, **Janet**, **Annette**, **Anne**, **LeeAnn**, and for all those we now name in our hearts or in the presence of this assembly. God, in your grace,

C transform the world.

P We come before you today with hearts filled with gratitude for the gift of community and the blessing of new members in our beloved Christ Lutheran Church. We lift up in prayer the Foley, Compton, and Knox families as they embark on this journey of faith within our congregation.

We ask that you pour out your abundant grace upon these families, enveloping them in your tender love and guidance. May they find solace, strength, and encouragement within the embrace of our church family, knowing they are surrounded by their siblings in Christ who are committed to walking alongside them.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless their relationships within our church community, forming lasting connections and friendships that bring joy, support, and shared spiritual growth. May they find inspiration in the examples of faith exhibited by our members – your disciples. God, in your grace,

C transform the world.

P Loving God, transform us in the offering of ourselves so that we may become neighbors to all, as we await with eager longing the full revelation of your rule in the coming of a new heaven and a new earth.

God, in your grace,

C transform the world.

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

C Amen.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

In Lutheran theology, the liturgy expresses our beliefs, including reconciliation with God and people, acknowledging their interconnectedness. According to Lutheran teaching, receiving God's free gift of forgiveness requires reconciliation with fellow believers. Passing the peace at this point in the service, through physical touch and handshakes, symbolizes God's reconciling love and forgiveness. It reflects the Lutheran emphasis on humility, forgiveness, and repentance in relationships, and the importance of grace, mercy, and community in our faith journey.

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C And also with you.

**MEAL** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERTORY** 

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. Harris

Please rise as you are able.

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

## **C** Amen

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **DIALOGUE**

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

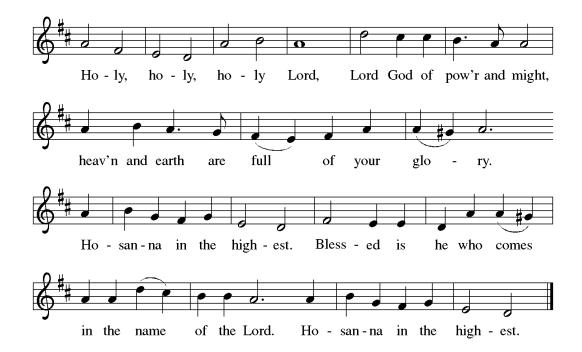
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **PREFACE**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

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**

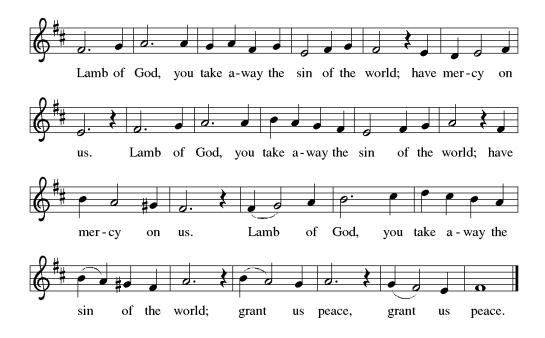
P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

#### COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Wes.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a wafer from Pastor Wes and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you.** Once you eat the wafer you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you.** Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.

## **COMMUNION SONG & PERSONAL PRAYER**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

P Go forth in joy.

You have God's kingdom in your heart.

Go forth in love.

Live for the Lord.

Go with hope and forgiveness.

The grace of God sustains.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Go forth in peace. Go forth in light.

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Please stand as you are able.

## **SENDING SONG**

## **Crown Him with Many Crowns**

**ELW 855** 

## **DISMISSAL**

P You are the light of the world risen up for the sake of the world. Go in peace share the good news.

#### C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Toccata in G arr. Eliot

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## **SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

Guest Organist: Kathy Bloom

**Lector:** Mary Steinke

Communion Assistant: Andi Hardesty

Greeter: Bill Steinke

**Usher:** Connie Steinhart

**Nursery:** Amy Holtz

**Hospitality:** Cheryl Kussow, Deb Holbrook

Financial Assistants: Martha Schmidt, Connie Steinhart

**Altar Guild:** Deb Gates, Barbara Starkey, Connie Ashenfelter

**AV Assistant** Greg Holbrook

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