

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from your presence; do not take your Spirit away.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen

God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. 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 sin, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made;

we will rejoice and be glad in it!

The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Lord has become my salvation.

Open to me the gates of righteousness;

I will go through them and praise the Lord.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

we will rejoice and be glad in it! (*Psalm 118:14, 17, 19, 24*)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING:

Acts 1:15-17,21-26

PSALM:

Psalm 1 (*Spoken Responsively*)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING:

I John 5:9-13

GOSPEL READING:

John 17:6-19

SERMON

Silence for Reflection

Music Meditation

Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (Gerry, Bill, Terry, Ernie, Nancy, Donna, Ed, Linda, Dick, Kathy, and all those we name now either aloud or silently). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OFFERING

In response to all that God has done and continues to do for us in Christ Jesus, we now come to that part of our worship when we give . . . not reluctantly, but cheerfully and in thanksgiving. While many of us have been accustomed to giving in the offering plate, because of the pandemic, there are other ways: through the mail or with Vanco online. However you choose to give, please know that your gifts make a difference. Your support of our mutual ministry enables us to reach out with the gospel in word and deed in our community and to the world.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God, in Moses, the prophets, and the psalms you showed
your purpose for your people and your love for your world.
In Jesus you fulfilled your promises and opened to us your heart.
In his passion and death we saw the consequences of our rejection
and the depth of your yearning.
Yet you raised Jesus from the tomb.
In his resurrection you invite us into the company of your eternal joy,
and in his ascension on high you seal as complete his work among us.
So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we praise you forever:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Gracious God, your Son at his ascension promised the disciples
they would be clothed with power from on high.
Send now your Holy Spirit,
that we may know the presence of your Son among us,
and that bread broken, and wine outpoured,
may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of Faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Generous God, your Son told his disciples
to stay in the city until they were clothed by the Spirit..
Give courage to those whom you call
to stay in places of danger and confusion
when their hearts are full of doubt and disillusion.
Your Son withdrew from his disciples
when they did not know what the future would hold.
Be close to all who face an uncertain future

and deeply know their need of you.
Your Son's disciples were continually in the temple praising you.
Give your church a fresh outpouring of your Spirit
and make it a blessing to all the children of your earth;
until the completion of your Son's ministry
becomes the completion of your whole creation,
and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
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

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS —————>

BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE