



**Sunday, May 12, 2024**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*

**GATHERING**

**RESURRECTION PROCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.  
**Amen.**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **OPENING SONG ELW 526 vs. 1, 3 *God is Here!***

- 1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Majesty***

Majesty, worship his majesty,  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from his throne unto His own;  
His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the names of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty  
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

Text: Kevin Mayhew

## **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.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **WORD**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

**Gospel: John 17:6-19**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus’ words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

[Jesus prayed:] <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 have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I 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. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Music: Jesus Loves Me – ELW #595**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**Music: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying – ELW #752**

**SERMON**

**SONG OF THE DAY ELW #657 vs.1, 5 Rise, O Sun of Righteousness**

1 Rise, O Sun of righteousness;  
with your might creation bless.  
Shine upon your church today,

showing all your gentle way.  
Have mercy, Lord.

- 5 Honor, praise, and glory be  
to the holy Trinity!  
May your gracious will be done:  
make us one, as you are one.  
Have mercy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958  
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Let us confess our faith in 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.**

**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**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons (*especially*) to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction (*especially*). Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace,

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

Bihn Hoang

Joyce Hansen

Carl Hoffman

Joyce Whittlesey

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Save us from ourselves, from racism in all its hidden forms, from hollow words without actions, forgive us, renew us, call us to action God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For your people in the midst of war, civil unrest, or conflict, grant protection, strength and hope for a better tomorrow. Bring peace and an end to the conflict. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For Vicar Tom Helmich this year, may your Spirit surround him with all that is needful and joy-filled. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith (*especially Pastor Karen*). Inspire us by their witness. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the Lord's Peace with one another...

*(Please be seated)*

**MEAL**

## OFFERING

*The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.  
Thank you for your support of our ministry.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### OFFERTORY ELW #186 *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

### OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.

**Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**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.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

*concluding* .....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Music:** *Holy, Holy, Holy* – ELW Service Page 144 (Setting 3)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord 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**

*(Please be seated)*

## **COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly*  
Come to the banquet for all is now ready. All are welcome.

## **COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

## **CONTINUOUS COMMUNION BEGINS**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207** *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice  
and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises  
and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*(Please be seated)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
may the Lord smile upon you and be gracious to you,  
may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. + Amen.

## **SENDING SONG ELW 826** vs 1 *Thine the Amen*

1 Thine the amen thine the praise

alleluias angels raise  
thine the everlasting head  
thine the breaking of the bread  
thine the glory thine the story  
thine the harvest then the cup  
thine the vineyard then the cup  
is lifted up lifted up.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Text © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!!**

### ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

May 19, 2024

#### **Pentecost Sunday**

**Acts 2:1-21**

*Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** (alternate)

*Life to dry bones*

**Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (*Ps. 104:30*)

**Romans 8:22-27**

*Praying with the Spirit*

**Acts 2:1-21** (alternate)

*Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

**John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

*Christ sends the Spirit of truth*

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 12, 2024

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**United in Christ**

The concept of the Trinity, one God, three in one, one in three, can be a little hard, sometimes, to get ahold of. But perhaps what scripture's witness to the Trinity boils down to is this: Jesus is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Father. The Father is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Son. And the Spirit is in and with and between both, always its own presence, but always, nonetheless, one in active relationship, one in ceaseless communication, with both the Father and the Son. Jesus prays that we may be "one" in the same fashion.

Conflict happens in the body of Christ all the time. Sometimes it is over matters of great significance: how we read scripture, how we are to conduct our lives, how the church is to think and act as it comes head-to-head with the constant pull and tug of the culture within and around it. Sometimes the conflict is personal. We resist the neighbor, and worse, out of hurt, anger, and anxiety. Sometimes the conflict can seem to be over a matter of pure nonsense: which way pickles should be sliced, and why they should be sliced that way.

Where and how, then, is our hope of being "one," as our Lord has so prayed?



It is in this: whatever our conflict, we belong to one another. Whatever our conflict, we are called to work at staying in active relationship, honest communication. We are not one, finally, when the issues between us wane, or cease. We are one because the Lord of life holds us together in the promise of his love even when powerful forces, at one and the same time, pull us apart. We are one because the body and blood of Christ have been given to each of us, and all of us.

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Matthias, Apostle**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

### **Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

*Six in Bed* (2022) by Carol Aust. Copyright © Carol Aust. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS007374.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.