



May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

Opening Hymn

Joyful, joyful we adore thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;
giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

The Word of God

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ has risen.

People: *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

Introduction to the Lesson

Two disciples are put forward as candidates to take Judas' place among the apostles. The lot is cast for Matthias.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “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—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 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.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

*The Psalm will be said responsively by whole verse,
alternating each verse with the Lector who reads first*

Happy 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!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

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

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

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Lesson

1 John 5: 9-13

Introduction to the Lesson

The disciples are told to have confidence that their prayers are being heard by God. Those who know God's Son inherit eternal life.

A reading from the First Letter of John:

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

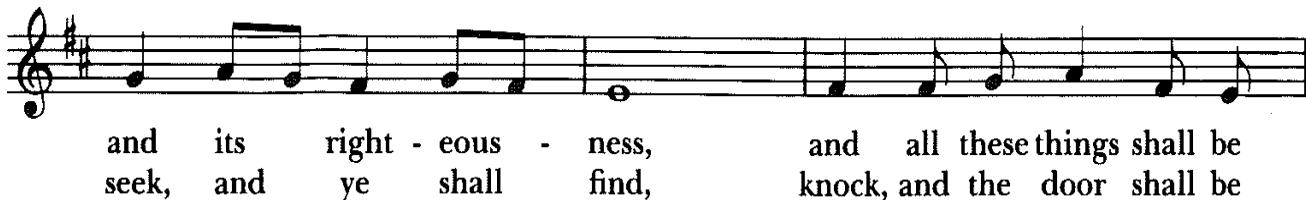
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gospel Hymn

Seek ye first



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



2 Al - - le - - lu - - ia, al - - le - -



lu - - ia, al - - le - - lu - - ia!



Al - - le - - lu, al - - le - - lu - - ia!

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Introduction to the Lesson

Shortly before his death, Jesus prays for unity among those who follow him. He prays that the Father will save them from every evil and lead them into the kingdom.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus prayed for his disciples saying, “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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

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. 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. 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. 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. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Mission of Holy Comforter
Love God, Love Others
Serve God, Serve Others

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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 the People

Leader: Today we thank God that the Christ who ascended is with us - visible in the lives of the people. Let us pray for all these people, and for the life about us.

O God in the resurrection and ascension of your Son, you have drawn us nearer to yourself. Together with your Son, may we be with all the people of the world. We especially give thanks for those with special celebrations. (*Intercessions of thanksgiving offered here*). O God, holding the world with love,

Hear our prayer

Circle all your nations, towns, villages, tribes and countryside with your love. Encircle all people with your great arms. Encircle all lands with your Son's mark of mercy. O God, holding the world with love,

Hear our prayer

Center all the scattered and call them together with your love. Hold us together or we will be lost. Awake us or we will fall. We especially pray for those in need of healing (*Intercessions of healing offered here*) O God, holding the world with love,

Hear our prayer

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears. We pray for the departed. (*Intercessions for the departed offered here*). O God, holding the world with love,

Hear our prayer

Fill all the places of the world with your great love. Give us the joy of the spirit of Jesus. Make us glad in this sad world. O God, holding the world with love,

Hear our prayer

Celebrant: O God of mercy, we have your promise that we are loved. Hear our prayers for all the world, hungering for your love, the love of your son without end.

(The Confession is omitted during the Easter season.)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory Solo

Arrangement of “Wonderful Words of Life”

Lucy Santos Green, soloist

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A *Also found on page 361 in The Book of Common Prayer*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus:



Ho ly, Ho ly, Ho ly—Lord, God of pow er and might, hea—ven and earth are
full— of your glo ry Hosanna in the high est Blessed is he who
comes— in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the high est!

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “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, Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: *Christ has died.*

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn

I am the bread of life

1. "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2. "The bread that I will give is my
 3. "Un - less you eat of the
 4. "I am the res - ur - rect - ion, of the
 5. Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven though you
 Son of God, who has

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, on the last day.”

Text: John 6; Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927
 Tune: BREAD OF LIFE, Irregular with refrain; Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927
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The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Blessing and the Dismissal

Celebrant: Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Recessional

Amazing Grace



The musical score for 'Amazing Grace' consists of three staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a bass clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a line of music. The first staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics. The second staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics. The third staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Linda Bargeron
Reader	Teresa Pinheiro
Altar Guild	Karen Sheppard
Vestry Person of the Day	Fred Hoogland
Live Streaming	Thomas Saunders
Soloist	Lucy Santos Green
Musician	Brad Green

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Pastor
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Spessert, Children's Ministry Director
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

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