



The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

PRELUDE “Air” from the Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Nancy King, organ; Jorge Avila, violin

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

We thank you, O God

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We bless you, O God

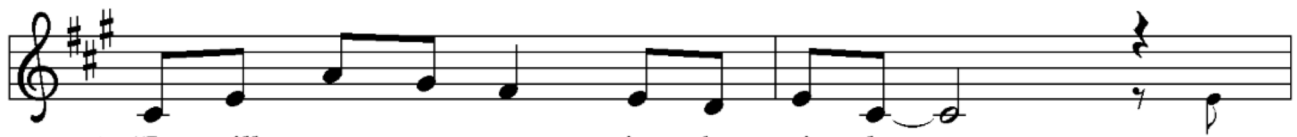
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

We praise you, O God.

PROCESSIONAL

You are Mine

ELW581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see.
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.
 Come and rest in me.
 all will know my name.
 up, now walk and live!

To stanza 2
To refrain
To refrain
To refrain



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

To stanzas 3 and 4

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.

Hymn to Joy HFW368



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: 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. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts

Ed Valentine, Lector

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²As 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.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
 when you marched through the wilderness,
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.
⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
 you restored your inheritance when it languished.
¹⁰Your people found their home in it;
 in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
 sing praises to the Lord.
³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
 you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.
³⁴Ascribe power to God,
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
 giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from First Peter

¹²Beloved, 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. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴If 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.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you
 in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves,
 keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone
 to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters
 in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹To him be the power forever and
 ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord
 Thanks be to God

Sing twice before the Gospel, once after

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL READING John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ

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.

⁶“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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

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 THE PEOPLE

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, and communities. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, afraid, or are suffering from COVID-19, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. We pray for Sheron Chenail, Jeanne and Tim Winkler, Candy Ermer, Paul Lasher, Shannon, Louise, Bill, Dana, Justin, The Pappace Family, all Gold Star Mothers, _____
_____ Are there others?

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day all those who died in service to their country and those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. We remember Don Shireman, Clayton Chrisman, Peter Elsbach, Stephen M. Wells, all those who have died from COVID-19, _____
_____ Are there others? Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In Remembrance

by Buryl Red

John-Arthur and Trudy Weaver Miller

Nancy King, organ

Jorge Avila, violin

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen 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.

PREFACE

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Remembering his death and resurrection... Forever and ever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Let us pray together: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this Spiritual Communion you have opened us even more to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

by Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

Jorge Avila, violin

Nancy King, organ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's flowers are given by Dick Goodwin
in loving memory of Don Shireman

and by
Neil and Kathleen Chrisman
in loving memory of Clayton Chrisman

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR:

<https://zoom.us/j/833803679> Meeting ID: **833 803 679**

One tap mobile +16465588656 Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

READ OUR E-NEWSLETTER, SEEDS

to get the latest and most up-to-date information about what is happening at Christ Trinity Church. Go to our website www.christtrinitychurch.org and look under **SEEDS, Our Newsletter** to find the button to subscribe. Here also is the link to next week's Pentecost service which is being brought to you by The Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

FEED A FAMILY OF FOUR

We have between now and Tuesday at noon to call and sponsor a school family meal for this week. It's super easy. Just call The Marketplace Cafe (413) 248-5040 ext. 2 and tell them you want to order a school meal. It's \$26 and change with taxes and they take your card info over the phone and it's done!! Thank you for your incredible and repeating acts of generosity!!!

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECTS

If you are a Thrivent member, you can help us raise funds to support our **Meals for Elders** program by applying for a Thrivent Action Team Project. And to help you do this from the comfort of your own home, Dave Spidal will walk you through the online application over the phone. The application process is fairly easy, but there are a few nuances that Dave will help you with if you have never done it before. Give Dave a call or contact him via email for more information. If you want to learn more about becoming a Thrivent member, call the office on Mondays or Wednesdays.

A message from Pastor Erik:

With Governor Baker allowing places of worship to open this week, I wanted to reach out to you and help you understand what that means for our congregation.

For now we will continue to operate under the directive from Bishop Fisher, NOT to have in-person worship at least through the end of June. After that date, we will be led by a thoughtful document created in consultation with highly regarded epidemiologists in the Commonwealth as a joint project by both Episcopal Diocesan offices in Massachusetts. Based in science, this path forward also uses the idea of "loving our neighbor" as it's theological guiding principle.

While we are a Federated "Lutherpalian" congregation and our Lutheran side offers "suggestions" rather than "directives" those Lutheran suggestions from Bishop Hazelwood's office match very closely with the Episcopal directives.

Under that directive and the reopening guide from the Episcopal Church, opening first requires that a number of public health benchmarks are first met in order to proceed. As I bring this to you on May 19th, we have not met those benchmarks in the Commonwealth as a whole or in Berkshire County. Once those benchmarks have been met which require sustained downturns in new cases, PPE supplies and significantly more available testing among others, we will potentially be given the green light in the Berkshire Deanery, to conditionally open using the Massachusetts Safety Standards for places of worship.

I do need to warn you however, that practically speaking for our particular sanctuary's physical layout, those standards would allow us to only open three pews on each side of our sanctuary and each of those six pews could only be occupied by members of a single household to meet the physical distancing requirement.

There would continue to be no Eucharist in either kind, there would be no in person coffee hour, no sharing of the peace, and masks would need to be worn by everyone at all times.

Again, we have not yet even met the Public Health Benchmarks which might allow us to even consider that level of opening and frankly, when those Public Health Benchmarks are met, I am personally reluctant to believe, particularly without receiving the Sacrament, that the benefit of opening with that level of restrictions it will be worth the risk to you, the people I care very deeply about.

On a pastoral level, and as a priest who earned a biochemistry degree, studying the AIDS virus as it grew into a pandemic in the late 1980s, I do not see these latest Commonwealth permissions to reopen as wisdom based in science. Both my background in science and the principle of "Loving my neighbor" call me to lead our parish to err on the side of caution when it comes to reopening. I will gladly listen as you tell me down the road that "we could have opened earlier" rather than be forced to reflect at a graveside, that "we opened up too soon." There are too many stories already from churches and pastors who are voicing that exact regret.

So for now we will continue to worship online only and I urge you, even with the easing of some restrictions to be cautious. The best practice remains for us to stay at home except when we must venture out for absolute essentials, continue practicing social distancing, wash your hands a bunch, wear a mask when you are out, tune into worship online, continue to love your neighbors by supporting our feeding ministries with our school families and seniors and continue to join me in Loving our Neighbors in this way.

SERVING AT CHRIST TRINITY CHURCH

Rev. Erik Karas, Rector & Pastor

Jean Chapin, Parish Administrator

Kelly Karas, Digital Missioner

Ed Valentine, Lector

Music Ministry

Jorge Avila

Nancy King

John-Arthur Miller

Trudy Weaver Miller

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