

All these with
one accord
continued stead-
fastly in prayer
and supplication
along with the
women and
Mary, the mother
of Jesus, and
with his brothers.

Acts 1:14

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The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

Streams of Grace Digital Worship



Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Winchester, Virginia

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Charles Tournemire

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [†] one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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.
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 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.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**



GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Arisen

ELW # 372

- 1 Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison.
So let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!
- 2 Were Christ not arisen, then death were still our prison.
Now, with him to life restored, we praise the Father of our Lord. Alleluia!
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! So let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

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. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

ACTS 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

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

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10

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

²**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.

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

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;**
I Am is that name, rejoice | before God! R

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

⁶**you 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,

⁸**the 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.

¹⁰**Your people found their | home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R

GOSPEL

JOHN 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

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, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Martha Miller Sims

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW # 763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 we live in and all who are in need.

Gracious God, during this global health crisis unite your church in the truth of your gospel and your command that we love one another as we love ourselves. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let justice ring throughout the lands, still the violence fed by greed and prejudice. Protect the vulnerable living under cruel governments and those wandering in exile seeking peace and safety. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the creative and selfless hearts among your people. We give thanks for the many who provide for our basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Protect and defend those whose livelihood puts them at risk, from the lowliest to the most vaunted of professions. No effort is too small if done in love for one another. Energize us so that we do not grow weary, inspire us so we can imagine solutions, protect us so we do not falter in our endeavors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help your children in their uplifting and lifesaving efforts especially those who treat the ill or seek a cure for this viral plague. Give them courage to reach across borders, to share and collaborate so that soon, everyone may feel safe living, recreating, and working with others. We pray especially for the therapists, first responders, doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel: Dick, Scott, Lisa, Sheila, Rick, Julie, Dixie, Courtney, Nikki, Patty, Chris, Xavier, Cheryl, Cee Ann, Eileen, Joe, Linda, Sheila W., Christi Joe, Maurade, Vicki, Cathy, Steve, Christopher, Christa, Becky, Gail, Audrey, Deanna, Bill. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and assuage the fear, isolation and grief that currently abounds in our world. Protect those despairing over job loss and financial ruin. Carry our anxieties for us, Lord. Give healing of body, mind, and spirit to those whose voices call out to you. We pray for Bill, Gene, Christopher, Dinah, Karen, Marshall, Jim, Marie, Diane, Polly, Jane, Barbara, Brian, Ora Mae, David, Masud, Pete, Tom, Paul, Janet, Larry, Howard, Carol, Alona, Ray, Doug, Clara, Jody, Sheila and others we remember now....
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Today, we praise and give thanks for those who serve in the armed forces. Grant them safety and assure them of your never-failing strength. We pray especially for Seth Anton, Brian Baker, Brett Boseman, Stuart Carper, Andrew Flanigan, Corey Flanigan, Elizabeth Grove, Ben Grove, Ellen Haines, Mitra Haines, Tyler Manuel, Kristjan Ruahaula, Brandon Reeve, Ted Schulz, Christine Sears, Alex Simpson, Danny Smith, Ron Snyder, Cassie Trulock, Scott Zerull, and Pastor Nate Huffman. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We await that day when you raise all your saints to heaven. Until then we give you thanks for the faithful who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. We pray for comfort for all who have lost beloved family members, especially the family and friends of Dale Simpson. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence and faith in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your care. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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**

Offering and Offertory

Amazing Grace

Anne Zerull, Clarinet and David Zerull, Oboe

Newton, W. Walker



The inclusion of the offering during digital worship is a reminder of the faithful and generous gifts given on-line or by U.S. Mail. To make a gift electronically you may scan the QR code. Checks may be made payable to the church and mailed to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscowen Street, Winchester, VA 22601.

SENDING

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

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide the leaders of the military, and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ⁺Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

ELW # 864

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.

Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang-ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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W. Dudley Oakes, DMA
Anne Zerull
David Zerull
Cheryl Robson
Brooks Nanna
Pastor George Sims
Pastor Jonathan Boynton



Next Week is **Pentecost Sunday**, and there will be a special shared Pentecost service. Leaders for the service will be the pastors of the Northern Valley Conference, and the preacher is **The Rev. JMe Lowden, Trinity Lutheran Church, Stephens City, Virginia**.

The readings for next Sunday are: Acts 2:1-21, Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, and John 20:19-23.

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