

May 16, 2021 Worship – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

### **Introduction to the Day**

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!

### **Thanksgiving For Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in  
Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,

for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ,  
that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church  
when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey

as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Lesson – Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>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!

<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

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

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

### **Gospel – John 17:6-19**

[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.”

## Message

Grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

Our Gospel today finds us hearing Jesus’ prayer for his disciples right before being betrayed and arrested. It is an interesting place to find ourselves just 7 weeks removed from Easter. But it is an important place to be.

Jesus, in his last moments with his disciples, literally moments before taking a hike across the Kidron Valley to a garden where he will be betrayed and arrested, takes time to pray for them. A whole chapter of John’s Gospel is Jesus praying for his disciples.

He prays that they would know all that they have seen in his ministry to be true.

He prays that all that has been revealed to them about his divine nature would live on far beyond his earthly life.

He prays that God would protect them as God as protected him.

And he does this...SO THAT...

“they may be one, as we (God and Jesus) are one.”

Jesus, in his final moments with his disciples takes time to pray for them. At the height of what I imagine to be a pretty anxious time for him, and most likely them, assuming they realize what is about to happen after he’d sent Judas away as the one who would betray him, Jesus takes time out to pray for them...

AND...

What the world the world will come to know of him because of them.

Jesus doesn’t give them a “we’ve had a great run, I’m grateful to have been a part of this with all of you” speech.

He prays for them AND the continuation of their ministry.

He prays that the world would come to know God’s love in Jesus Christ through the witness of the disciples.

For generations to come.

Did you catch that? Jesus doesn’t JUST wish give thanks to God for the time they had together. He doesn’t JUST pray for the disciples and the work that they will do. Rather, he prays for ALL WHO WOULD COME TO BELIEVE because of it.

This is one of those Sundays where I wish I could say I planned it myself. I wish I could say that I handpicked this text for this day, as we celebrate 66 years of being a worshipping community. Because it is that perfect.

When Jesus prayed for his disciples, and all that would come to believe because of them, he was praying for the Dr Hegge’s and the many that filled the old sanctuary here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

When Jesus prayed for his disciples, and all that would come to believe because of them, he was praying for baby Olivia who will later be washed in the waters of the baptism, some 66 years after this congregation first met to worship.

And he was praying for every child that would be baptized in between, and every child that will be baptized for generations to come.

But, you're not going to believe this, he doesn't stop there.

On top of praying to God that the world would come to know God in Jesus Christ through the witness of the disciples, Jesus also prays that they would know God's love through HOW the disciples live it out.

Jesus prays that the disciples, and all that would come to believe because of their witness, would be one as God and Jesus are one.

This is where this call in Jesus' prayer gets complicated.

Have you ever tried to explain the Trinity, the triune nature of God, to a child? Or even yourself?

We know that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, we also know that the Father is NOT the Son, the Son is NOT the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is NOT the Father.

And here we are, called to as one as they are.

We can put it in terms that maybe clear up the complexity for us.

We gather for worship at Good Shepherd as Lutherans. ELCA Lutherans to be exact. Also worshiping here in Eau Claire are Lutherans of the Missouri Synod variety, as well as Lutherans of the Wisconsin Synod variety.

We are all Lutherans. But, we aren't Missouri Synod Lutherans, and Missouri Synod Lutherans aren't Wisconsin Synod Lutherans, and Wisconsin Synod Lutherans aren't ELCA Lutherans.

Yikes. Is this making any sense yet? Not quite.

That happens when we focus on how we aren't like other people, and though being different and unique is good, when it is our focus, division only grows.

This is when it is important to hear what Jesus says of not being of this world, just as he is not of this world, neither are his disciples, and neither are we. When our focus is of this world, we fail to see where we are the same. Jesus in his prayer calls his disciples' focus to be on what is to come, and that is the Kingdom of God.

In the Kingdom of Heaven there is no division, there is only God's grace and mercy.

Jesus in his final prayer for his disciples asks that the world would come to know him through their witness and through their unity. Their unity is in God's grace and mercy and the call to love unconditionally.

My prayer is that on year 132 of being Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we are able to look back and point to the unity we found in the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

## **Baptism of Olivia Favorite Larson**

### **Apostle's Creed**

### **Prayers**

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.

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 (*especially Jim Holte, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Steve and Marilee Julson, Bill Kuehn, Shirley Stark, Kathy Smith, Bob Kries, Bill and Betty Davey*). 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.**

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 (*especially*). 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**

### **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.**

### **Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.**

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me."

Once you've taken the elements say, "Wellspring of joy, 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.**"

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**Please sign up to attend in-person worship!**

**For the remainder of May and throughout the Summer months, there will be worship Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Other worship opportunities will be added starting in June, but worship at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary will remain.** Please call DeAnne in the office to get signed up!

## **Re-Connect Opportunities**

We hope you will join us for any, or all, of these Re-Connect Opportunities throughout the week!

Stop in for coffee and conversation at 9 am on Mondays

TUESDAYS be sure to stop by for Bible Study starting at 11, followed by Lunch and Laughter at noon.

Wednesdays will continue to be our Faith Formation Days

Thursdays we will have the sanctuary open for prayer for 8 am to 3 pm.