

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

### Introduction to the Day

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus  
Christ,  
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us  
bless God,

who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding  
minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth,

through the city,

through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water

and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away  
every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,

our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn "All Are Welcome"

#641, vs. 1,3,5

**Greeting** – The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Reading: Psalm 97

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of  
his throne.

<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

<sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world;

the earth sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
and all the peoples behold his glory.

<sup>7</sup> All servants of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;  
all gods bow down before him.

<sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns<sup>[a]</sup> of Judah rejoice  
because of your judgments, O God.  
<sup>9</sup> For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.  
<sup>10</sup> You who love the LORD, hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;

he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.  
<sup>11</sup> Light dawns<sup>[b]</sup> for the righteous  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Gospel: John 17:20-26**

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup>“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup>“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

These last two weeks we have heard the bookends of Jesus' "Final Discourse" to his disciples. This, again, is Jesus' final message to his disciples and it takes up four verses in John's Gospel. They begin with the message we heard last week. This set the tone for what sounded a bit like a coach talking to a team before heading out for the fourth quarter of a game. Jesus tells them that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will accompany them on this journey of living out the live to which God calls them, and will remind them of everything they know.

The end of this 4 chapter message is chapter 17, and it is all a prayer. Before we get there, it would do us well to hear what Jesus has to say to them right before this. Chapter 16 end with Jesus telling the disciples that this isn't going to be easy.

John 16:33 "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

Okay, not the most settling of a pep-talk. Yes, it would feel good to hear a coach, Jesus in this case, assure you that he has conquered the world that is to persecute you, but the fact that he just told me that in the world I face persecution is going to be difficult to get out of my mind.

So he prays for them.

Now, what we have come to expect in scripture is that we are often told where Jesus goes to pray. It is often a garden. Somewhere away. Somewhere quiet. Somewhere by himself.

In this instance he doesn't. "Take courage; I have conquered the world!" And immediately "he looked up to heaven and said..." And that is where we hear the prayer.

This matters because it means the disciples heard it. Much like they heard the three chapter pep talk that precedes it, they heard the prayer that Jesus prays on their behalf.

When our oldest was our only child, she would often make her way out of her bedroom and walk down the hallway and find her way into our bed in the morning. We were not ready to be out of bed, and so we often resorted to Sesame Street videos on YouTube. Specifically Elmo videos.

Elmo has this particular skill when they want to do something, they imagine. If Elmo wants to drive a car, Elmo will say, "Imagine. Imagine. Imagine." And, poof. Elmo will be in a car. If Elmo wants to fly a plane, Elmo will say, "Imagine. Imagine. Imagine." And, poof. Elmo will be in a plane.

For Elmo, the imagination is limitless. There is nothing Elmo can't imagine doing.

So, we are going to allow ourselves to imagine for a moment.

Imagine you are one of those disciples in that moment. What are you feeling when you hear Jesus pray that prayer for you?

What are you thinking that Jesus prays for you and all who would come to believe because of your word. What feelings come up when Jesus prays that you would all be one? And that the world would come to believe because of your oneness? How are we feeling sitting at Jesus' feet as he prays this prayer for us?

As we pondered this question at the Senior Apartments and Bible Study this last week we heard responses all across the board. Overwhelming. Awesome. Afraid. Unworthy. Empowered. And, much more.

Not only, in praying to His Father in heaven, does Jesus offer comfort and guidance to his followers, he also expressly states His desire. It is His prayer to God in heaven, that all would be one SO THAT all would come to believe.

How are we doing on that front?

Do we dare allow ourselves to imagine – imagine – imagine what that true oneness might look like and the power it might have? After all, the imagination is a powerful thing that if we allow it to be, is limitless.

So often, when confronted with this hypothetical our immediate response is, "well, we could never."

But, newsflash, the disciples in that moment that Jesus prayed for them, AND ALL WHO WOULD COME TO BELIEVE because of them, likely thought it was impossible as well.

Yet, here we are. We still maybe haven't reached that unity that Jesus desires, but I think it is safe to say that we have come to believe, and it isn't by some dumb luck. We have come to believe because this story has been told. We have come to believe because this story, this prayer, was written down, to be read and prayed throughout generations. And here we are, praying it today.

People of God, let yourselves imagine what could be. What power does the love of God in Jesus Christ hold for all people? Where might you be called to share it? What relationship might it be urging you to repair? What aisle might it be calling you to reach across?

Imagine. Imagine. Imagine.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

## Song of the Day

## “Bind Us Together”

### The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Offering

#### Offertory Prayer

Living God,  
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together  
in your peaceable reign,  
and you welcome us all at your table.  
Reach out to us through this meal,  
and show us your wounded and risen body,  
that we may be nourished and believe  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy God, make your people one as you and your Son are one. Extend the gifts we have been given by your Spirit to all people, especially those experiencing division or questioning your love. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Make worthy the work of scientists who look to the stars and planets, as well as scientists who look to atoms and molecules. Bring innovation and well-being to humanity through their discoveries. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Keep in our minds those who have died in war, both military and civilians (*especially*). May we honor them by seeking peaceful solutions to the conflicts that arise among nations and peoples. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant freedom to all who are overwhelmed by chronic illness, depression, or constant worry (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Kathy, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob*). Open them to receive health and salvation in Christ Jesus through the Spirit's gift of faith. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Stir imagination and understanding throughout the church in the work of poets, theologians, and hymnwriters. Lead us into new visions and fresh expressions of your presence. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Unite us with the saints who have died and been raised in Jesus. Train us to wait with eager longing for Christ to come again, even as we sense his presence with us now. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **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**

### **Communion**

#### **Prayer**

We give you thanks, generous God,  
for in this bread and cup

we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**Amen."**

#### **Blessing**

God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**            **"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"**

**#888, vs. 1,3**

#### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements**

### **Summer Worship**

Beginning June 5, we will have worship here at 9 a.m. or you can join us at Phoenix Park at 10 a.m. Your offerings at Praise in the Park will still get to us as long as you have them in an envelope marked Good Shepherd.

### **Vacation Bible School Summer 2022**

Any kids going into 1st through 5th grade are invited for VBS this summer! Mark your calendars for June 20th- June 23rd at Spirit Lutheran Church from 9am to 3pm. You may drop off your child at 8:30am if that works better for you. We will have a few activities until 9am, when counselors from Luther Park Bible Camp will lead VBS.

It's \$20/child with a \$45 family max, this includes all programming, a snack each day, and a t-shirt. Join in the fun this summer with friends from Spirit Lutheran, Hope Lutheran, and St. John's Lutheran. Check out the registration forms on the Faith Formation bulletin board or fill out a registration form online at [VBS 2022 Registration Form](#).

Contact [Anne Weber](#) with any questions.