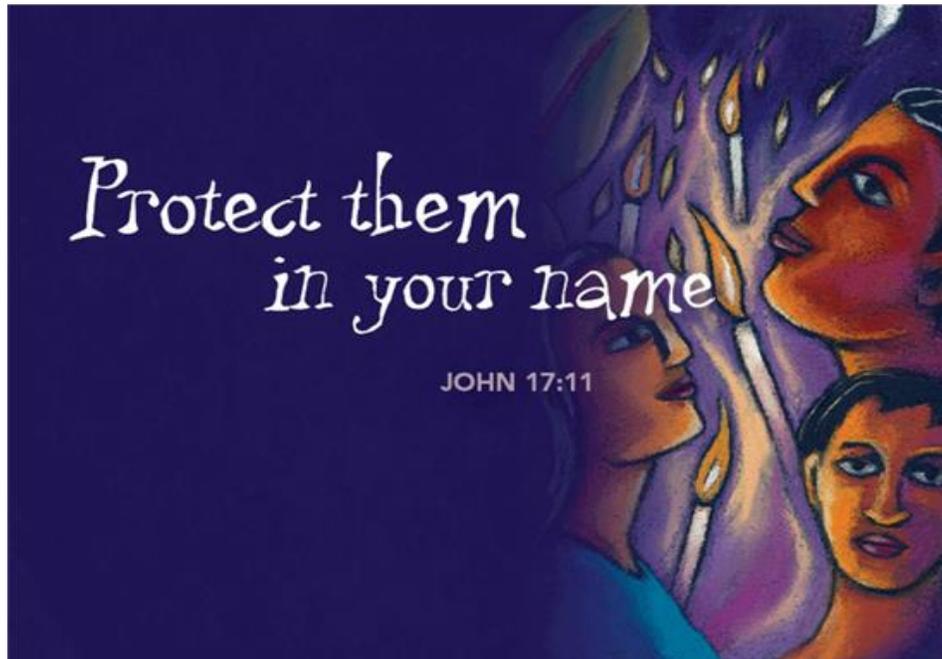


SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16th, 2021



9:15am - Zoom

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the gospel attributed to John. Many readings in this Easter season give attention to life lived in harmony with all of creation in light of Christ's resurrection. In a part of the world where Easter and springtime coincide, we take note of all of the newness and resurrection we see around us: butterflies, budding trees, spring rains, and lengthening days, and more. In worship we give thanks to God for gifts of creation, newness, and life!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.

C: Let us dwell in God's work of art.

P: Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,

C: And God's Earth is our home.

P: We live in God's World; we are not alone.

C: We share this life with the heavens and the earth,

P: With the waters and the land,

C: With trees and grasses,

P: With fish, birds, and animals,

C: With minerals and creatures of every form,

P: And with all our human siblings.

C: God is good and everything God makes is good.

P: God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

C: Let us worship God!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: 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.

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

C: Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

P: You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all that lives.

C: Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety.

P: Through the sea you lead your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

C: In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

P: By the baptism of his death and resurrection, Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

C: The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

P: Jesus sends us out to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us; wash away our sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN - [O Day of Rest and Gladness, ELW #521](#)



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING - Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"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 — ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning 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."

²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM - Psalm 1

L: 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!

**C: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

L: 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.

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

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

**C: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING - 1 John 5:9-13

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

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. ¹⁰Those 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. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - John 17:6-19

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death – his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

[Jesus prayed:] "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. ¹²While 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. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

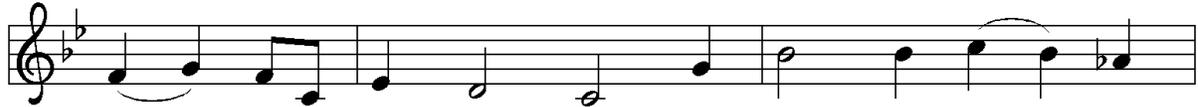
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - [Oh, Love, How Deep, ELW #322](#)



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

CREEDAL DIALOGUE

Adapted from "Care of the Earth" liturgy by the Rev. Jennifer Edinger

P: People of faith, we are gently shaped in the womb of God's creative power. The seed of Christ's new life is sown, and we are made a new creation. As God's new creation, we are nursed and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Together with rattling leaves, blooming flowers, wind, sun, and rain- we add our shouts of praise to God, who gives life in creation, who gives new life in Jesus Christ, and who nourishes that life by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

P: We believe God creates.

C: God spoke. Light and darkness; heaven and earth; land, sea and plants; sun, moon and stars; fish and birds and animals came to be. God spoke and made us. God gave us responsibility to care for creation. God spoke and all life God creates is good.

P: We believe God re-creates.

C: God spoke in the living word, Jesus Christ. At the cross, Christ spent himself to reclaim us from our human brokenness, to shower renewing forgiveness into our lives, and to place us before new horizons of life, lived in harmony with God and people and creation.

P: We believe God caresses.

C: The Holy Spirit delivers us into a family of faith. The Spirit cultivates in our lives the fruit of holy living: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Spirit leads us into community, connection, and compassion. By the work of the Spirit we are a new creation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.

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. *A brief silence.*

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*). 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of distanced greeting. If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support.

You can mail in your offering or send money through your bank. You can also take advantage of our online giving platform on our website. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue during this time and into the future.

P: Loving God, we are surrounded by the beauty of creation. We are supported by the abundance of creation. We gratefully receive your gifts of love and life--gifts which fill our lives with joy and satisfaction.

C: In thankful response to your generosity, we place before you pieces of ourselves and of your creation--food from the earth we till, energy from the moments of our life, money from the skills you give, bread from the seeds that were sown and wine from the grapes that grow, and our abundance to share with others. Receive them as signs of our love and gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. With Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the witnesses to the resurrection, we praise your name, and join the unending refrain of all creation.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks for your gifts that tumble into and saturate our lives: for family and friends and strangers who enrich us; for the sunrise that energizes the day, and darkness that give quiet and rest at day's end; for rains that quench the thirsts of life and sun that warms the soil and germinates the seed; for winter snow that blankets the sleeping world.

As your fingerprint is upon all creation, your love is embossed on the human family. You sent the prophets to speak your comforting and cleansing word. You sent your son, Jesus the Christ, to proclaim your reign of forgiveness, justice, and peace.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life, pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Bless us wherever we gather in your name. Grace our tables, counters, and laps with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of wine. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth to serve in your name. With your holy ones of all times, places, and locations, and with all of creation, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

P: As we are the body of Christ, we take this sign of Christ's body into ourselves. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

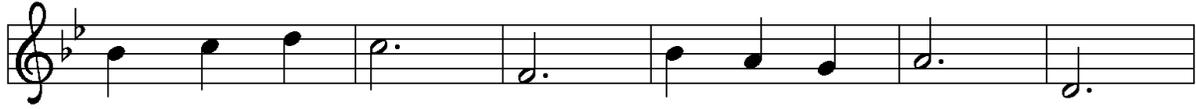
1. Outreach Meeting TODAY at 1:30pm
2. Wear Red for Pentecost next Sunday
3. Tuesday Bible Study
4. Constitution Town Halls: May 23, June 6

BENEDICTION

L: Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Care for God's redeemed creation; follow Christ as disciples in word and deed; be blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C: Alleluia! Amen!

SENDING HYMN - [Touch the Earth Lightly, ELW #739](#)



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,
 we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

DISMISSAL

L: You are the body of Christ raised up with all of creation. Go; share the good news!

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!