

Worship in the Home: May 16, 2021

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Worship in the Home

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year B

May 16, 2021

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. We offer this brief resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship, you are encouraged to prepare or adapt them locally for your context.

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!

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle and place a bowl of water in remembrance of your baptism. One person may lead this acclamation and then pray the

Prayer of the Day.

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 us all.

Amen.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

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 order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and 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.

²¹"So one of the men who have accompanied us during the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when Jesus 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ¹of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law ¹of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching ¹day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹do not wither; everything they ¹do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so ¹with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind ¹blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way ¹of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall ¹be 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.

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that God has testified to the Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made God a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning the Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in the Son of God. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 17:6-19

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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:] 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. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they may be sanctified in truth."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Having read these readings, think on this:

Every year, on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, we read a passage from the long prayer of Jesus that John's Gospel situates on the eve of the crucifixion. With its simple religious language, the prayer proclaims the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection. But we easily misunderstand: while we should indeed seek to keep God's word and to unite with all Christians, this text is not about that. Nor is it about us trying to avoid the world. Rather, in this text the word of God keeps us. The name of God already holds us in unity. And among the words that Jesus has given us is this: God loves the world. In John's Gospel, the "world" is a name for all things organized as if there were no God. But Jesus Christ has been sent into that world, and his cross has marked all things with God's saving love. Now, in the power of the Spirit and with the Apostle Matthias, we too are sent as witnesses to that love. With the First Letter of John we know that this love of God gives us eternal life already now. Eternal life does not wait until after death, but is the joyful communal sharing of Christ's truth now.

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 655), "Rise, O Sun of Righteousness" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 657). Selected hymns are provided below for those without a hymnal at home.

[Son of God, Eternal Savior](#)

Then pray these intercessions:

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to each petition with the words "Give us life in your name."

A brief silence.

For the church we pray, O God: that you raise up the next generation of pastors, deacons, and musicians to serve your people; that you protect believers wherever danger threatens; and that you grant Christians a spirit of unity with all the baptized.

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, holy father.

Give us life in your name.

For the earth we pray: that you safeguard the trees and all streams of water; that you preserve the ice at the north and south poles; and that you instruct us in repairing what in your creation we have broken.

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, plenteous giver.

Give us life in your name.

For peace and justice, we pray: that leaders of nations act with integrity in their decisions; that the poor be respected and supported; that prejudice against people of different color or language or ethnicity be ended; and that our government use wisely the tax money it gathers.

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, righteous ruler.

Give us life in your name.

For families, we pray: that families under any stress be strengthened; that immigrant families find acceptance in their new home; that people forced to live away from their families be comforted; and that family members increase in forbearance with one another.

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, bond of blessing.

Give us life in your name.

For all the sick and suffering, we pray: that you give medical care to all with COVID; that you visit with compassion the people of India; that you sustain those with life-long disability; and that you embrace those we name before you. . . .

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, physician and nurse.

Give us life in your name.

For all graduates, we pray, that opportunities for appropriate employment or further education be open to them. For all who cannot benefit from such schooling, especially for women where their education is forbidden, we pray, that you show them a worthy way forward.

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, teacher of truth.

Give us life in your name.

For ourselves we pray, that despite sorrow or setbacks, we yield the fruitfulness that you intend from us; and that you receive the prayers of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, God, source of peace.

Give us life in your name.

For all who have died in the faith of Christ, we praise you. For Erik of Sweden and for Queen Helena, we thank you. That at our end we join with all the saints in your eternal presence,

A brief silence.

Hear us, God, life everlasting.

Give us life in your name.

In the joy of the resurrection, in hope for the gift of your Spirit, we raise these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 247), "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 656). Selected hymns are provided below for those without a hymnal at home.

[Blest Be the Tie That Binds](#)

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor and for making us into a people of your own. With all the saints who have received your Word we worship you, holy God.

We worship you, holy God.

We praise you for your eternal Word, for conquering the force of death, and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord. For your Word alive among us, we praise you, living God.

We praise you, living God.

Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us, that led by your Word we may honor your earth and its many peoples and serve all who are in need. For your Word animating our Easter life, we bless you, loving God.

We bless you, loving God.

All worship, praise, and blessing be to you, Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life, today and forever.

Amen.

Offering 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.**

Please remember to mail in your offerings so that Grace can continue to serve you. (Our mailbox has a lock on it, so is secure.)

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Then speak the Blessing:

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

The God of life,

Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Devotional Music Links: For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: "[Come, My Way, My Truth](#);" "[The Fullness of God](#);" "[Creating God, Your Fingers Trace](#)."

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 115. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, 1160) Titus 1:1-9. **Wednesday** John 16:16-24. **Thursday** Psalm 33:12-22. **Friday** (commemoration of Helena, mother of Constantine, c. 330) 1 Corinthians 15:50-57. **Saturday** (Vigil of Pentecost) Romans 8:14-17, 22-27. **Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

Daily Prayer Resources are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are only able to provide downloadable hymns that are in the public domain and selected hymns for limited use. To purchase copies of [Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#) and [All Creation Sings](#) for the home, visit the [Augsburg Fortress website](#) or call 1-800-328-4648. Selected hymns from [All Creation Sings](#) will be provided for limited use.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw.

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Thank you to those who clean the Church following worship.

Thank you to those who provide you with these worship services.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the church and surrounding area.

"Our church is looking for an Administrative Assistant to replace Diane Eddy who is retiring on June 1. This position will support our future pastor, the Council and Congregation, by managing the Church office. This is a paid position working 15-18 hours a week. A full position description is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. If interested please contact Diane (426-3343) or any Council member. (Elizabeth Eddy, Walt Ford, Len Flesher, Joe Frauenshuh, Carole Holten, Lynette Maas, Dick Rohde, Ron Smith, Bev Streeter)"

Grace Women with Grace will be sponsoring the Community Meal May 19th. If you would like to help please talk to Mary Ann Kult or Diane E.

Special Congregational meeting following worship on July 18th.

NALC/LCMC Questions and Answer discussions: May 19 at 7:00 pm. Please join us to discuss our Lutheran Church options. May 19—NALC & LCMC organization representatives on ZOOM to answer questions. Please submit questions ahead of time if possible to Dick Rohde.

Please keep in your prayers this week: Kevin Johnson, Barbara Metzger, Rob Johnson and Steve Lindberg (Streeter Family Friend's & Kin), Cal Curtis & Patty Thompson (Carole Holten's Son-in-Law & Sister), Emily (Ben & Casey's Daughter), Carole Holten, Lois Goossen (Friend of Newgard's), Danny Vorbeck.

Pastoral Mid-week message for May 11, 2021:

The legendary Jenny Lind, who toured the United States 170 years ago, was known as the "Swedish Nightingale." Music experts of her time marveled at her rich, warm, colorful voice, and the remarkable control considered unique. Whenever she arranged to give a concert, she requested that she be provided with a little room backstage, available to her only, in addition to the normal dressing room.

A short time before she was to go onstage, she would go into this little room alone, and lock the door. Then, she would stand in the center of the room, completely alone, in silent prayer and meditation. After a few moments, she would sing one note. Just one note, clear and beautiful. She would stand silently as the reverberations died away, then a few more moments of silence and she would pray: "Oh Lord, let me ring true tonight, let me ring true!"

Those who knew her, and loved her, said she would then leave that room and sing with a quality of joy, beauty, and life in her voice that was uniquely hers. There was joy, beauty and life in her music, they said, because she knew the source of joy, beauty, and life.

I think this is our prayer today: "Oh, Lord, let us ring true!" He sends us out into the world as His message of hope, joy, and love is communicated to the world. But this also is the message: Oh Lord, let us ring true!"