



Seventh Sunday of Easter May 17, 2026 8:15 Setting 1

As We Gather

Jesus will complete His stewardship of our lives in this world when He fulfills this promise – “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again to receive you unto myself that where I am, you may be also.” Then indeed we will “dwell in the House of the LORD forever.”

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen LSB 474

Alleluia!

Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb,

Heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise:

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way,

Christ in the center

Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread,

Giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

Jesus the vine,

We are the branches;

Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth,

Christ to the people,

Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

Weeping, be gone;

Sorrow, be silent:

Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing:

"O grave, be open!"

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

City of God,

Easter forever,

Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life,

Saints and archangels,

Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

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no. 110005066

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

A Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵**You prepare a table before me**

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast (sing)

**☐ This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain,
whose blood set us free
to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom,
and strength,
and honor, blessing,
and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

A Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'" 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 men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show 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 numbered with the eleven apostles.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

¹⁸And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia.**

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 17:1–11

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you;

and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Have No Fear, Little Flock LSB 735

Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
 For the Father has chosen
 To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
 For the Father will keep you
 In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
 For He stoops down to heal you,
 Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
 For He stays close beside you,
 In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

Text (st. 1): Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930–2022; (sts. 2–4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931–2010

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Sermon "He Leads Us Home" Psalm 23:6

Prayer of the Church

- A** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

- A** Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, DCE'S, DCM's, deaconesses, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and all lay servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they plant and water good seed in Your kingdom. We humbly ask You to provide your protection to guard the hearts of these servants and their families and offer growth where and when You will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd's care for all of His sheep. Help us to meet the needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led by our Good Shepherd, day by day. We pray for those near and dear to us, *Roger Mankiewicz, Brooke Zoungrana, Cindy Wike, Curtis Dickson, Lennie Sprayberry, Rick Miller, Roger Kindt, John Haubold, Jan Peterson, Cindy Maxwell, Armando Florez, Ami Gray, Doug Ebersol, Drake Williams,*

Joe Kuzma, Jan Peterson, Cythin Estes, Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.

Grant them health, healing, and comfort. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. We thank you for your presence during this Pastoral call process and granting your wisdom to our Call Committee and Staff during this vacancy. Continue to grant this congregation your wisdom today, especially, as we elect our pastor whom You have appointed to shepherd us. Bless and sustain both of these pastor candidates and their families as they consider the future plans you have for them and for St. Paul.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day Stephanie Mueller, Eddie & Marsha Musgrave, Bryan, Clarice, Trinity Nichols, Matt & Tammy Nixon, Bless the children of our CLC, Logan, Lucy, Luka, Mayer, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people,

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Offering Blessing

C Thank you, Lord, for blessing us that we might be a blessing to others.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

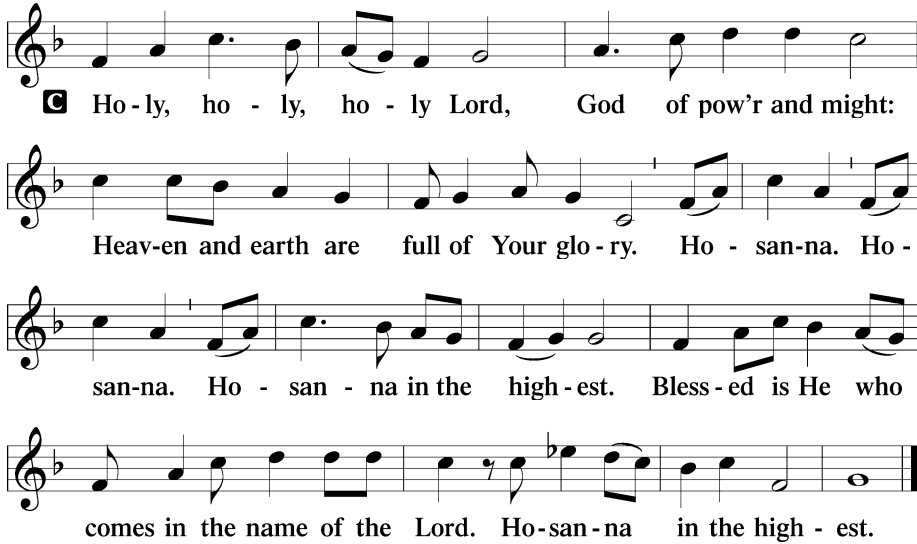
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

A It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- A** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

I'm But a Stranger Here LSB 748

I'm but a stranger here,
Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear,
Heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand
Round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland,
Heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage,
Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage,
Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast
Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last,
Heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not,
Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot,
Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland,
Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35

Text: Public domain

My Faith Looks Up to Thee LSB 702

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87
Text: Public domain

Thank the Lord

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

The Easter Benediction

- P** May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

- C** Amen.

Jerusalem the Golden LSB 672

Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest—
The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest—
We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory,
The bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion
Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne of David,
The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever
Their gleaming robes of white.

O sweet and blessèd country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessèd country
That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Dismissal

P Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

P For Christ is Risen!

C He is Risen indeed!

P Alleluia!

C Alleluia!

Acknowledgments

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