



Seventh Sunday of Easter May 17, 2026 10: 45 Blended Service 2

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.”

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP +

Opening Song "23rd Psalm" SSP 73

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still still waters
His goodness restores my soul

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me
And Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

Text: Stuart Townend

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

A Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Sentences

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.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Holy and gracious Lord, the earth was made to be filled with Your glory. Despite Your love and care, we have not lived lives worthy of being called Your people.

Pause for silent reflection

- A** Forgive our sins and shortcomings. Overcome our inability and inaction. Replace our selfish and faithless nature with hearts that glorify You.
- C** **O Lord, be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.**
- P** Having accomplished the work given Him to do, Jesus Christ has paid for all of your sins, has risen for your justification, and has claimed His seat at the Father's right hand to intercede on your behalf. 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.**

Song of Forgiveness "My Chains are Gone" SSP 39

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

Redeeming Lord Jesus Christ, at Your name bows every knee in heaven and on earth. In Word and Sacrament, draw near to this holy gathering, that in forgiveness and faith, Your people might confess You as Lord, be sanctified for good works, and be prepared to meet You when You come again, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

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.**

Epistle 2 Timothy 3:14-17

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.**

Gospel

John 17:1–11

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory 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.**

Children's Song "Same, Same, Hands"

The same, same hands that made the mountains,
are the same, same hands that calmed the sea.

The same, same hands
that make the water fall like fountains
are the hands that gave my life to me.

His hands are guiding me.
Behind before, and on both sides of me.
His hands are guiding me.
And in His hands I know I'll always be.

The same, same hands that make the seasons,
are the same, same hands that made the blind man see.
The same, same hands that keep my heart a beating
were nailed upon the cross for you and me.

His hands are guiding me.
Behind before, and on both sides of me.
His hands are guiding me.
And in His hands I know I'll always be.

Text: Jana Alayra
Text: Public domain

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "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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Message "The Steward of the Lambs 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 Let us 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.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Offerings are Received- "Still Waters" Kevin Lindsay and Cassidy Tennyson

+ 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have not left us without hope, for You promised a Redeemer, who by His obedient death and victorious resurrection crushed Satan underfoot and opened to us the door of everlasting life. With repentant joy we receive the salvation He won for us on the cross. Gathered now at His bidding, we pray that You would grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood, and thereby to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in this Sacrament. Strengthen us to live in hope each day until we join saints and angels around

Your throne in eternity. 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."

+ HEADING +

"We Proclaim Your Death" SSP 9

L The Mystery of Faith

C We proclaim your death, O Lord,
And profess your Resurrection
until you come again

Text: Marty Haugen

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Song of Forgiveness "Lamb of God" SSP 10

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.

Text: Tony Alonso

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Distribution Song "Jesus Messiah" SSP 99

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all
Jesus Messiah Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

Text: Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

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Distribution Hymn "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

Distribution Hymn "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

Song of Blessing "Lord Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LSB 937

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A Let us pray.

From Your abundance, O Lord, You have supplied us all things in Christ. Grant to us grace that we may receive Your gift with joy and thanksgiving and, by this blessed communion, we may rest our burdened hearts upon Your goodness knowing that Christ is enough and trusting in Him always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ WE DEPART IN HIS PEACE +

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Closing Song "His Mercy is More" SSP 95

What love could remember
no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing
He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

What patience would wait
as we constantly roam
What Father so tender
is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest
the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

What riches of kindness
He lavished on us
His blood was the payment
His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more

Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Text: Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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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!**

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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