



Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Ascension Sunday  
May 21, 2023

*Bulletin for Online Service*

*The Good News for Today: Christ is everywhere.*

*To view this service, please visit [our YouTube channel](#).*

*Thank you for worshiping with St. John's, where we are committed to building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ.*

## Gathering Music

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus — ELW 392 (Red Book)

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received  
him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heav'n your  
throne.  
As within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
here on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

## Greeting

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray.... O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# The Readings

## Acts 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence  
of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides the  
clouds;  
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

<sup>6</sup>**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

**<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**<sup>10</sup>Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

**<sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**<sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

## 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation



## John 17:1-11

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

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “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. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – “Hide and Seek” –Pastor Bo Bannister

## Hymn: O Living Bread from Heaven — LBW 197 (Green Book)

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,  
oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
with praises overflows!
- 2 My Lord, you here have led me  
within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me  
with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given  
what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven,  
that now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted;
- 4 Lord, grant me then, thus  
strengthened  
with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened,  
to serve with holy fear.  
And when you call my spirit  
to leave this world below,  
I enter, through your merit,  
where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1606-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

## Luther's Small Catechism in Worship

### The Creed – The Second Article: On Redemption

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.

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

# The Nicene Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for Helena and all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Praise be to you, our Father, for your Son Jesus Christ. He lived and died for love of us, and, after rising from the dead, yet more wonderfully he met with his disciples. He walked with them, taught them, and shared supper with them. He ascended into the heavens and he is with us now.

Therefore we join the saints and angels echoing your praise throughout the universe and saying:

## Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and Might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest,**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the highest**

## Eucharistic Prayer

To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless these gifts, which we offer you firstly for your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Be pleased to grant us peace, to guard, unite, and govern us throughout the whole world, together with your



Bishops and all those who, holding to the truth in love, hand on the teaching and practice of Christ.

On the night before he was to suffer, he took bread in those hands of healing and mercy, and with eyes raised to heaven, to you, God, his Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which is given up for you."

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious cup in those hands of healing and mercy, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the cup of my blood, the cup of the new and eternal covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

Therefore let us proclaim 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 and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we boldly pray:

## The 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## Post–Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns — ELW 855 (Red Book)

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem  
drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the virgin's Son,  
the God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies  
won  
which now his brow adorn;  
fruit of the mystic rose,  
yet of that rose the stem,  
the root whence mercy ever flows,  
the babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning  
eyes  
at mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

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