

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

Welcome to Worship at Zion!

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

We Gather

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

A new creation has already begun. **The sun has risen!**

In the tomb of Jesus Christ, **we are called to leave behind our sinful nature and all that belongs to the brokenness of the present world.**

Redeemed by God's grace-filled forgiveness, **we are called to follow Jesus into God's new world, overflowing with opportunities to love and serve our neighbor by following Christ's example.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #657

"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW, pages 140 & 141

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray together...



ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community,
and extends God's radical welcome to all people,
because we're all created in God's image.

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

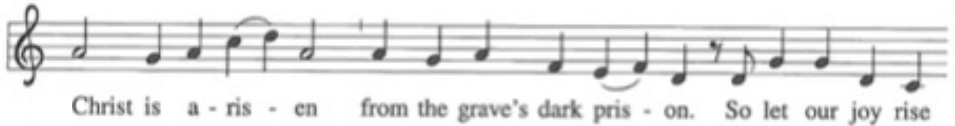
RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

SECOND READING

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

See Insert

"Bind Us Together"

NICENE CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed: **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

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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.

SHARING THE MEAL

"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

Hymn #826

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

We Are Sent into the World

PRAYER FOR SENDING

Let us pray together...**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

Hymn #860, Verse 1

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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Today's Readings

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

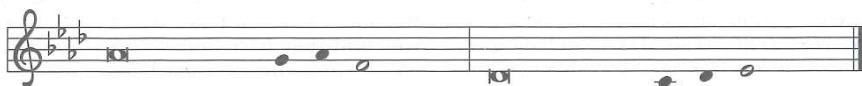
When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; tone 3



Let God arise,
and let God's ene-¹mies be scattered;
let those who ¹hate God flee.

²As smoke is driven away,
so you should drive ¹them away;
as the wax melts before the fire,
so let the wicked perish
at the pres-¹ence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad
and rejoice ¹before God;
let them also be mer-¹ry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the one who ¹rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice ¹before God!

⁵In your holy habita-¹tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans,
defend-¹er of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home
and bring forth prisoners
¹into freedom;
but the rebels shall live
in ¹desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth
be-¹fore your people,
when you marched
¹through the wilderness,

⁸the earth quaked,
and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God,
the ¹God of Sinai,
at the presence of God,
the ¹God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful ¹rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance
¹when it languished.

continued

Psalm, continued

¹⁰**You people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you have made provision for the poor.**
³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
³³**You ride in the heavens, O God,
in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice,
your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is in the skies.
³⁵**How wonderful you are
in your holy places,
O God of Israel,
giving strength and power
to your people! Blessed be God!**

Second Reading

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

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. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴If 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.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on

him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

John 17:1-11

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

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. 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."

TODAY'S READINGS May 21, 2023

Volume 54, Number 3

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.

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