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

CALL TO WORSHIP
Do not be afraid: Jesus is risen!
This is the day the Lord has made,
when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell
and rose victorious from the grave.
How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,
is your mercy and loving-kindness to us,
that to redeem a slave,
you gave a Son.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

OPENING LITANY
We are the people of Zion!
A city on a hill, a light that cannot be hid!
Following Jesus
Everyone is welcome here!
Following Jesus
We equip each other for ministry!
Following Jesus
We are sent to serve our neighbor!
This is the day the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
HYMN OF PRAISE

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

Who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

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

Strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

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

God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor,

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

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.
We Hear & Respond to God’s Word

YOUTH MESSAGE

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:6-14
A reading from Acts:

6When [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.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

1Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee. 2As 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. 3But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful. 4Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I Am is that name, rejoice before God! 5In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows; 6you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places. 7O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, 8the 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. 9You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished. 10Your 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. 33You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.
Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

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
A reading from First Peter:

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. 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. 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.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 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. 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. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11
The Holy Gospel according to John, the seventeenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

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, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“You Are Mine”

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
Following Each Petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

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

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

OFFERING
This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING
May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.
SENDING HYMN
“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

1 Thine the a-men thine the praise al-le-lu-ia-thi-ans an-gels raise
2 Thine the life e-ter-nal-ly thine the prom-ise let there be
3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the ta-ble we the guest
4 Thine the king-dom thine the prize thine the won-der full sur prise
5 Thine the glo-ry in the night no more dy-ing on-ly light

thine the ev-er-last-ing head thine the vi-sion thine the tree all the earth on bend-ed knee
thine the ban-quet all from thee thine the glo-ry yet to be the jus-tice of thy ways
thine the riv-er thine the tree then the break-ing of the bread
thine the Lam-b e-ter-nal-ly

thine the glo-ry thine the sto-ry thine the har-vest then the cup
thine the ring-ing and the sing-ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo-ry thine the sto-ry then the wel-come to the least
thine the ho-ly ho-ly ho-ly cel-e-bration ju-bi-lee

thine the vine-yard then the cup is lift-ed up lift-ed up,
thine the sigh-ing gone the dy-ing what was loss lift-ed high.
thine the liv-ing thine the lov-ing ev-er-more ev-er-more,
thine the won-der all in-creas-ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen-dor thine the bright-ness on-ly thee on-ly thee.

DISMISSAL
The worship has ended. Let the service begin.
Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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