

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A



Ringing of Bell

PRELUDE *Holy Spirit Living Breath of God*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. (*local waters may be named*).
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 526

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.

C: 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 45:1-7 THE MESSAGE

From east to west there is no other God

1-7 GOD's Message to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he took by the hand to give the task of taming the nations, of terrifying their kings—He gave him free rein, no restrictions: "I'll go ahead of you, clearing and paving the road.

I'll break down bronze city gates, smash padlocks, kick down barred entrances. I'll lead you to buried treasures, secret caches of valuables—confirmations that it is, in fact, I, GOD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

It's because of my dear servant Jacob, Israel my chosen, That I've singled you out, called you by name, and given you this privileged work. And you don't even know me!

I am GOD, the only God there is. Besides me there are no real gods. I'm the one who armed you for this work, though you don't even know me, so that everyone, from east to west, will know that I have no god-rivals.

I am GOD, the only God there is. I form light and create darkness, I make harmonies and create discords. I, GOD, do all these things.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 68: 1-10, 32 *We read responsively*

L: Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

C: 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.

L: But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

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

L: In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

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

L: O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

C: 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.

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

C: Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

L: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

SECOND READING: ACTS 1:6-14 WILDA C. GAFNEY—
A WOMEN'S LECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

Promise of the Holy Spirit & Ascension

⁶ When they [the disciples] came together, they asked Jesus, "Rabbi, is this the time when you will restore sovereignty to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Creator has set through divine authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ And saying this, as they were watching Jesus was taken up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While they were gazing up toward heaven Jesus was going and suddenly two in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Galileans, why are you standing looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they entered the city, they went upstairs to the room 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. ¹⁴ All these were persevering in prayer together with women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his [sisters and] brothers.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Jesus prays for his disciples

¹ 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, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So 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. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ 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!**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 403
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

- 1 Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: come, Holy Spirit, come.
- 2 To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine, to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign: come, Holy Spirit, come.
- 3 With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: come, Holy Spirit, come.

◆ APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED

OFFERING—OFFERTORY—GLOBE OFFERING

Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe at the front of the church

◆ OFFERING HYMN v. 4 ELW No. 367
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

4 Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing: "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table

before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

C: Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN

I Come with Joy ELW 482

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

C: Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

◆ **SENDING SONG** ACS 984
May the God of Hope Go with Us **Sing Twice**



May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day



to a world in need with news of joy and peace.



May the God of justice speed us on our way



bringing light & hope to ev'ry land and race.



Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our



joy with all; working for a world that's new



faithful when we hear Christ's call. *REPEAT*

Text-Alvin Schutmaat, 1921-1988, alt.—Music-ARGENTINA, Argentine folk mel.

Ringing of Bell

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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KEYBOARD/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst

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GREETER(S)—Sharon Homeier, Dave Kolsrud

C/SET UP—Erica Aronson

C/SERVERS—Erica Aronson, Barb Groth, Sharon Homeier

COFFEE— Wayne & Marie Spidahl

TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,

Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PUBLIC DOMAIN HYMNS - *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

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■ CCLI Song #4779872 *Holy Spirit Living Breath of God*

■ OL/SKU #106559 *God Is Here* ELW 526

■ OL/SKU# 40840 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* ELW 403

■ OL/SKU # 05408 *Now All the Vault of Heaven* ELW 367

■ OL/SKU# 00455 TEXT—*I Come With Joy* ELW 482

■ OL/SKU# 29745 *May the God of Hope Go with Us* ACS 984

■ OL/SKU#CGA171 *Everywhere I Go*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jennifer Lerfald, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert, Larry Walker, Tim Emerson & the family of Frank Peterson.

"Thank you for all your prayers! It has been a long tough road but God will lead me through it! My medical condition has greatly improved through your prayers! Blessings to all from Renee Spidahl Carmichael "

CALENDAR

SUNDAY MAY 17

9 am WORSHIP

10 am Coffee

10:15 *Revelation Bible Study*

TUESDAY MAY 19

6 pm COUNCIL

FRIDAY MAY 22 (*Last Day of School*)

SUNDAY MAY 24

9 am WORSHIP

10 am Coffee

10:15 *Revelation Bible Study*

COMING IN JUNE . . .

6/4 *Farmer's Market, 4-7pm, Food Vendor*

6/7 *FLCW Meeting after Worship*

6/10 "SUMMER STRETCH" begins

6/18 *Farmer's Market, Fundraising Vendor*