

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Suffering and Glory

Pax Worship Service

May 21, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We don't like to suffer. In fact, there are times when we feel the slightest pain and we start feeling like we are being persecuted. We would much rather have God shatter those we perceive to be our enemies than deal with anything resembling suffering. When God deals with our "enemies," then, we will sing God's praises. But sometimes life is hard and sometimes it is hard because we are Christians, and our adversary, "the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus once said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12). This same Jesus prayed for us, that our holy Father would keep us in His name. He knew suffering and is now experiencing glory. When we suffer because of our Christian faith, we share Christ's suffering and because He suffered, died, and rose again, we, too, will share that experience and join Him in His glory.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

"Blessed Assurance"

Verse: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory
divine. Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit,
washed in His blood. This is my story, this is my
song. Praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story,
this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.

Verse: Perfect submission, perfect delight. Visions of rapture now
burst on my sight. Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. This is my story, this is my song.
Praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story,
this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.

Verse: Perfect submission, all is a rest. I in my Savior am happy
and blest. Watching and waiting, looking above filled with
His goodness, lost in His love. This is my story, this is my
song. Praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story,
this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and
admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and
hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to
God.

People: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in
which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the
church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.

Pastor: Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping
watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an
account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that
would be of no advantage to you.

People: And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the
pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of
ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all
attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the
Son of God.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, confident that He will hear and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have not always been proud to bear Your name. At times, we crumble in the face of the trials that come our way. We allow worries and anxieties to crowd out Your caring presence. Keep us in Your name, which You have given us in Baptism, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!

People: Alleluia! Amen.

☩ **WORD** ☩

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O King of glory, Lord of Your Church, You suffered on the cross and defeated death and the devil for us.

People: Make us one as You and the Father are one. Unite us with You and as Your Body, the Church, in suffering and celebration, that the world may be drawn to You and the power of the resurrection;

Pastor: for You are risen and reign eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12–26

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 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. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.^[a] ¹⁵ In 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. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong^[b] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And 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.' ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning 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." ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–

II

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory^[a] and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that

name. ¹⁷ For 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? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"^[b] ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And 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. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

"God You're So Good"

Verse: **Amazing love that welcomes me, the kindness of mercy
that bought with blood wholeheartedly, my soul
underserving.**

Chorus: **God, You're so good. God, You're so good. God, You're so
good, You're so good to me.**

Verse: **Behold the cross, age to age and hour by hour. The dead are
raised, the sinner saved, the work of Your power.**

Chorus: **God, You're so good. God, You're so good. God, You're so
good, You're so good to me.**

Chorus: **God, You're so good. God, You're so good. God, You're so
good, You're so good to me**

Bridge: **I am blessed, I am called, I am healed, I am whole. I am
saved in Jesus' name. Highly favored, anointed, filled with**

Your power for the glory of Jesus' name. I am blessed, I am called, I am healed, I am whole. I am saved in Jesus' name.

Highly favored, anointed, filled with Your power for the glory of Jesus' name.

Verse: And should this life bring suffering. Lord, I will remember what Calvary has bought for me both now and forever.

Chorus: God, You're so good. God, You're so good. God, You're so good, You're so good to me.

Chorus: God, You're so good. God, You're so good. God, You're so good, You're so good to me.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1–11

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

People: **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

17 When 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, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And 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. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For 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. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"The Answer to Anxiety"
Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

1 Peter 5:7

SONG OF THE DAY

"Christ Is Risen"

Verse: Let no one caught in sin remain inside the lie of inward
shame; but fix our eyes upon the cross, and run to Him, who
showed great love and bled for us, freely You've bled for us

Chorus: Christ has risen from the dead, trampling over death by
death come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the
dead. Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him
again come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the
grave.

Verse: Beneath the weight of all our sin, You bowed to none but
heaven's will; no scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown, no
burden great can hold You down. In strength You reign;
forever let Your church proclaim

Chorus: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him again
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.

Bridge: O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your
victory? O church, come stand in the light; the glory of God
has defeated the night. Singing O death, where is your
string? O hell, where is your victory? O church, some stand
in the light; God is not dead He's alive He's alive!

Chorus: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him again
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death,
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him again
come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave.

THE OFFERING (*baskets will be passed*)

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING "I Stand In Awe"

Verse: When I consider what You have made. The mighty oceans,
the fiery stars, the fields and forests give You praise. My
Lord, my God.

Chorus: I stand in awe, I stand in awe, I stand in awe of You.

Verse: When I consider what You have done, I see Your suffering, I
see Your scars. Oh, the wonder, and oh, the love. My Lord,
my God.

Chorus: I stand in awe, I stand in awe, I stand in awe, of You.

Bridge: All glory, all honor all worship and all praise. All blessing,
all power, how worthy how worthy is Your name.
All glory, all honor, all worship and all my praise. All bless,
all power is Yours.

Chorus: I stand in awe, I stand in awe, I stand in awe of You.
I stand in awe, Yes, I stand in awe. I stand in awe of You.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*found inside back cover of the hymnal*)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"Cornerstone"

Verse: **My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and
 righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly
 trust in Jesus' name.**

Chorus: **Christ alone. Corner stone. Weak made strong in the
 Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.**

Verse: **When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His
 unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor
 holds within the veil. My anchor holds within the veil.**

Chorus: **Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the
 Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of
 all. He is Lord. Lord of all. Christ
 alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
 Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.
 Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the
 Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.**

Verse: **When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in
 Him be found. Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless
 stand before the throne.**