GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- **P**: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
- **P**: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.
- C: Amen
- P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.
- P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C: make us one as you are one.
- P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

 Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C: make us one as you are one.
- P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

 Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C: make us one as you are one.
- **P**: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters

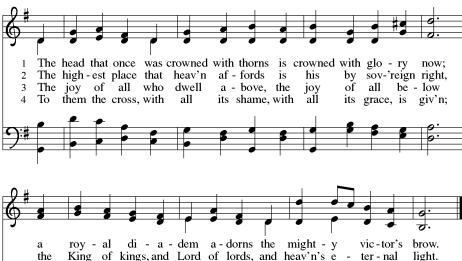
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN

The Head That Once Was Crowned.....LBW 173



ev - er - last - ing name, their joy,

5 They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme!

the

his name to

joy of

know; heav'n.

grants

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855

Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

their name, an

- C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- **P**: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

whom he man - i - fests his love, and

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

A: A Reading from Acts:

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

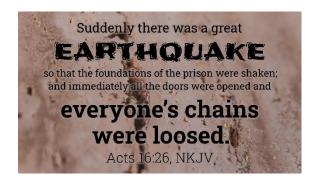
¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed

that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

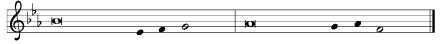


PSALM: Psalm 97

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice; let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
- ² Clouds and darkness sur-| round the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God's throne.
- ³ Fire goes be- | fore the LORD, burning up enemies on | every side.
- ⁴ Lightnings light | up the world; the earth | sees and trembles.
- ⁵ The mountains | melt like wax before the Lord of | all the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens declare your righteous- ∣ ness, O LORD, and all the peoples ∣ see your glory. R
- ⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.
- ⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice, because of your judg- | ments, O Lord.
- ⁹ For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth; you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
- You who love the | LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.
- 11 Light dawns | for the righteous, and joy for the hon- | est of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's | holy name. R

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

A: A Reading from Revelation:

 12 "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

 16 "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

 $^{\rm 20}\,\rm The$ one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am com- ing to you.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus prayed: ²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Pastor Amme

Stand





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

NICENE CREED

C: 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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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

SENIOR RECOGNITION

P: We honor our seniors who graduate at the end of this school year. The work of education is challenging, exciting, demanding, rewarding. It prepares us for new adventures ahead in further education or work or military service or into whatever direction our interests, our talents, or our curiosities move us and lead us. We pray that as our seniors step out into the paths into which the world carries them that God goes with them to bless them and keep them safe on their journey. The blankets that we present to our high school seniors

June 1, 2025

symbolize our love and the love of our Lord that enfolds and embraces them as they go on their way.

P: Let us pray:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, as our seniors complete a milestone in education and in their lives, as they move out into new adventures in living and in developing who they shall be, travel with them to keep them safe on their way, but also to assist them in learning who they are and to guide them in becoming the person to whom You have given the talent and skills to become. Fill them with Your Spirit that the love of Christ would move them to share Your peace with all who cross their pathways in the diverse and varied world that lies before them. Be their strength in days of challenge and their joy in days of triumph; for Jesus' sake.

C: Amen

Sung to the tune of "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

G: Go, my children, in my love you'll always abide Meet your future, looking on your past deeds with pride. May your faith give you direction; may the Church be your connection,

To the ways of Resurrection, grace undenied.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

At the Table of the LordJay Althouse

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

C: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

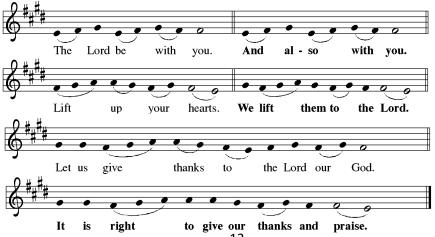
A: Let us pray:

C: Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

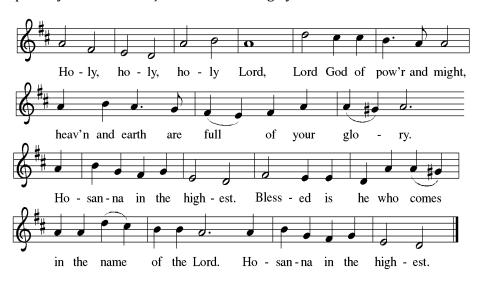
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

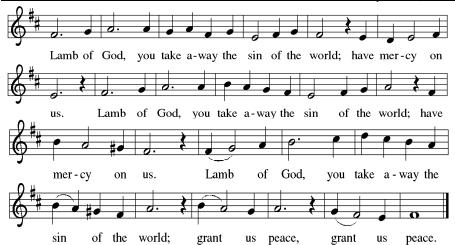
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

C: Thanks be to God.

June 1, 2025



Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

> The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness.....LBW 224



- Soul, a dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad-ness,
- a bride to meet him, ea ger ly and glad ly greet him. I hum-bly pon der o ver this sur-pass-ing won-der Has - ten as
- Now in faith
- Je sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru est friend, and dear est trea-sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der. There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock-ing, the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less; peace be - youd all un - der - stand - ing, joy life ex-pand-ing: in - to all



a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed; Bless the one whose grace un-bound-ed this o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal: with the choic-est wine of heav-en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

June 1, 2025



he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low-ly. "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er." Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va-tion. wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign,

→ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen

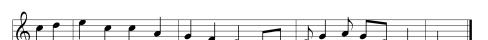
SENDING HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West.....LBW 359



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;

3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth. gold-en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind. his ser-vice is the A11 chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ vou are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

G: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins **Acolyte:** Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser **Greeters/Presenters:** Sue and Dennis Shoemaker; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday; remember to wear your red.

This year's VBS will be held June 23rd - 27th. The topic will be "MAGNIFIED! Discovering the BIGNESS of God in the SMALLEST of things". Volunteers will be needed if you are available all week or just on certain days. Please call or text me at 570-244-6964 if you are interested. Further information will follow. Oh, and please start saving your toilet paper rolls and 16 oz. Whipped Topping or margarine containers and lids. We're looking forward to another great year at VBS. Thanks in advance. Kathryn Pratt

PACK THE PANTRY 30 - DAY CHALLENGE: Hunger Knows No Season... but with school letting out for the summer, families face more challenges to fill those hungry little bellies! With that in mind and our "Pack the Pantry" having received such an overwhelmingly generous response last year, we've decided to host a collection again this year. You may pick up a list of the food in the Narthex. Monetary donations are welcomed any time of the year. Please remember to write "food pantry" in the memo line if donating by check, or on the envelope if donating cash. On June 29, bring your filled bags to worship with you and place on the front pews in the sanctuary so we can see how much food will fill our pantry shelves to overflowing!

Today we celebrate all of the Graduates of Messiah: As we traditionally have we will be presenting a blanket to our High School Senior: Jordan Morris. Jordan graduated from Williamsport Area High School and will be pursuing a career as a Corrections Officer for the State Prison Systems after completing a training program through the State. Olivia Welter graduated from the Commonwealth University out of Bloomsburg with a Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology. Let's shower them all with Messiah Love! Send a note or card of congratulations:

Jordan Morris Olivia Welter

1016 Meade Street 2621 Riverside Drive

Williamsport, Pa 17701 South Williamsport, Pa 17702

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702 (570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

To Know God

After her very first day of Sunday school, a little girl went up to her father, looked him directly in the eyes, and said, "I love you, Daddy, because God loved me first." She then declared boldly, "First Jesus, four nineteen!" It took only a few seconds for her father to realize that her Sunday school lesson for the day was based on 1 John 4:19, which says, "We love because he first loved us." Amazing, that already on her first day of Sunday school this child of God had learned that love comes first from Jesus and then is to be shared.

Once we understand the principle that we love because God loves us first, it is not difficult to reach other related conclusions. We forgive because God has already forgiven us. We bless because God has already blessed us. We walk with others because God walks with us. These are bold statements of union with God.

Jesus, in today's gospel reading, is not afraid to say that he and God are one. And more than this, God's intent is that each of us is to be one with God as well. To know God is to know love. To know God *is* to know forgiveness. To know God *is* to know blessing.

What happens when we approach the altar on Sunday and receive the sacrament? When we receive the bread and wine, we take in Jesus. In taking in Jesus, we become everything that Jesus is. This is truly, albeit mysteriously, an embodied reality of union with God. What a gift!

It has always been God's desire to be reconciled with us—for us to be in a relationship of peace and wholeness through Jesus and to live the life of the Spirit by clearly sharing with others everything we have come to know about the One who created us. In sharing love with others, we then live a life that says "thank you" to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24158. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted Hymns by permission of OneLicense.net #A-712396 and CCLI #11444333.