

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Conversation
May 15 & 16, 2021
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Some of the most memorable portraits of Jesus shared with us by the Gospel writers depict times when He prayed. We remember Him teaching the disciples to pray when He was on the mountain, sharing the heart of His teaching. We have the powerful portrait of Him praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night He was betrayed. And in John's Gospel is recorded what is known as the High Priestly Prayer of our Lord. Jesus prayed for His people during His earthly ministry; He continues that praying for us. In his first epistle, John writes that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). There is holy conversation in heaven just as sure as there is holy conversation on earth when we pray!

WELCOME

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written,
"I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,
knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus
and bring us with you into his presence. (2 Corinthians 4:13-14, ESV)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #904 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

1 continued

(Rise) Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD;

People: let my cry come to you!

Pastor: Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress!

People: Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!

Pastor: O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

People: O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Pastor: The LORD has heard my plea;

People: the LORD accepts my prayer.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins to Him,
praying for His gracious forgiveness.

People: O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put you first. We have used your holy name in ways that do not honor you and have not been constant in prayer and devotion. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of your creation and have not shared its bounty with others at all times. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have coveted that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by your grace bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Refrain: *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom you promised from the Father; for you live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM SONG #605 “Father Welcomes”

Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.

Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **Refrain**

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. **Refrain**

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **Refrain**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Acts 1:12–26* (Matthias is chosen to replace Judas Iscariot among the disciples.)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.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 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 chosen²⁵ 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 1 John 5:9–15 (The testimony about the Son of God)

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SONG “God Has Given Us His Word”

God has given us His Word, it’s written here!
God has given us His Word, it’s written here!
God has given us His Word, it’s written here!
God has given us His Word, it’s clear.

God has given us His Word, it’s really true!
God has given us His Word, it’s really true!
God has given us His Word, it’s really true!
God has given us His Word, it’s true.

God has given us His Word, He’s Jesus Christ!
God has given us His Word, He’s Jesus Christ!
God has given us His Word, He’s Jesus Christ!
God has given us His Word to share.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11b–19 (Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)

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

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead;
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON**“United and Sanctified By the Truth”**

John 17:11b-19

(Rise)

8:00 APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

OFFERING *Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others. Trusting in God’s loving response, we pray for the Church and all who are called to lives of service to God’s people.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give thanks for the growth of the kingdom of God among us. Bless Julian Rowell, who has been baptized into Christ this weekend. Grant him to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ all his days and bless his parents to nurture, discipline, and lead him in the ways of Christ.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We rejoice in our nine young people being confirmed in the Christian faith this weekend. Bless them to confess their faith in sincerity and truth. Grant them to be united with all believers in Christ. Bless them through all their days to be sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and the grow in faith and live out the faith for all the years to come.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives. Bless all nations to live in peace and be with those suffering from attacks in other parts of the world.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, especially Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit would guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Giver of every good and perfect gift, we join with Steve and LeAnne in celebrating Berta's birthday. We give you thanks for the gift of life and ask you to help us treasure the people you place in our lives.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Christ's body and blood that forgives all our sins, nourishes our faith, and gives us strength to lead lives of repentance and faithfulness. Grant us humility of heart and joy in our souls as we receive this precious meal.

People: Lord, your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked, grant us according to your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

8:00 THE 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION *Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

HYMN #578 "Thy Strong Word"

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives, our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

HYMN #547 "The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

HYMN #617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
 The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev’ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask you to help us by your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works you desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no man evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, and love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

People: Amen.

HYMN #770 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Bob Reynolds
Michelle Prince