

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Suffering and Glory

May 20 & 21, 2023

5:00pm & 8:00am

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.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

And you also will bear witness,
because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #570 "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

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 & 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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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. Amen. 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 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 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.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING Acts 1:12–26 (The Apostles find a replacement for Judas.)

¹²Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷He was one of our number and shared in our ministry." ¹⁸(With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'" ²¹Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²²beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." ²³So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11* (Jesus suffered. As people connected to Jesus, we can expect to suffer also.)¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?¹⁸ And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 17:1–11* (Jesus prays for Himself and for us.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And

now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN #594 “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness; I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring: Even there I’ll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I’m a child of paradise!

SERMON

(Rise)

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.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, Ruler of all, protect and defend your Church from every attack of the devil who prowls and seeks to devour. Where he tempts, strengthen your people to resist his seductions and terrors; where he gains a foothold with false teaching or ungodly living, call to repentance and holiness; and where he incites enemies against your Word and Church, preserve your saints in the faith, that they may rejoice to share in the sufferings of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, bless our confirmands. We thank you that they have learned the faith that they have been baptized into. We pray that they may continue growing and learning in you. You are the vine, we are the branches. Keep them attached to you throughout their lives, and never let them go. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, bless the work of our missionaries. Bring forth your harvest from the seeds they sow. Support those who endure fiery trials for your name. As they shine the light of the Gospel into hostile darkness, guard them with the sign of your cross. Let them rejoice that in tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword, they share in your very sufferings. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, bless all who graduate whether it is from Middle School, High School or College. Especially we thank you for Jay Graf as he is graduating from Purdue University. We thank you for the hard work these students have put in, and we ask that you bless them as they journey to the next stage of their lives. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, we thank you for the gift of marriage and we ask that you bless all marriages. We especially pray for the marriage of Dave and Diane Ross who are celebrating their 35th anniversary. Be with them throughout their marriage, and we thank you for the many years they have had so far. We also thank you for Marge Ross as she is celebrating her 97th birthday. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, you hold the might of man in your hand and can destroy all things by your mighty power. Bless our nation and all the peoples of the world. Where war and violence threaten, bring peace and justice. Where oppression reigns, bring liberty. Watch over those who defend us, especially the men and women of our armed forces and those who protect within our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, you have saved us by your grace. We pray for the sick, the distressed, those whose hearts are heavy, those whose lives are burdened, those who mourn and all who are in any need especially Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them healing according to your will, strength and mercy according to their needs, and the peace that passes understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, your Son is both host and meal in the Sacrament of the Altar. Give us faith to recognize His body and blood and to receive with grateful faith this blessed food in Holy Communion. Guide us to live faithfully here on earth until we live forever with you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as the first Christians devoted themselves to prayer and worship following Christ's glorious ascension, preserve us in the same until we are raised with all the saints to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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Pastor: Blessed are you ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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 HYMNS

HYMN #629

"What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!

O taste and see the Lord is King.

10 continued

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

HYMN #637 “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

HYMN #651 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav’nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev’ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv’n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav’n.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank you, Jesus, for gathering us at your Table as an oasis for our parched and weary souls. Strengthen us as we face fiery trials and suffering so that your glory may be revealed; for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 HYMN #525 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Grant Gundersen, Katie Librizzi
Olivia Kukor

Blessings to our Confirmands

Elena Iris Brofka

Ester Angeliz Candelaria

Drew Austin Gutknecht

Teagan Mary-Jean Ivy

Savannah Morgan Lentini

Juliana Yolanda Rivers

Cal John Streicher

Samantha Jean Vogt

Savannah Ruth Byrge

Zavier Ian Gonzalez

Bradley Howard Hoffman

Logan John-Michael Kennedy

Elizabeth Grace Minor

Isabella Rose Schmitz

Riley Joseph Strysick