

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, May 15, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EASTER PRAISE:

L: Alleluia! Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God has crowned Him with glory and honor,

L: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C: He has put all things under His feet.

L: We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C: Death no longer has dominion over Him.

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen from the dead.

ALL: Alleluia!

“This Joyful Eastertide”

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

**Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!**

Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;

Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: Refrain:

**My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain**

(“This Joyful Eastertide”, text by George R. Woodward, from the Cowley Carol Book, by Permission of A. R. Mowbray & Co., Ltd., Oxford, England, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Even as we celebrate our new life in the risen Christ, we realize the sinfulness of our nature, our words, and our deeds. Let us pray to our merciful God for his gracious forgiveness.

C: Patient God, it hasn’t been easy for us to be disciples or witnesses to your love. We get caught in traps of anger, impatience and fear. Our words and spirits become cynical

and jaded. Yet, at all times, you are with us, guiding and guarding us. On this day in which we celebrate the last Sunday of Easter, we are reminded that we are not being left without guidance. The promise of the Spirit is given and in that promise we have hope and courage to become true disciples. Forgive us when we forget that! Forgive us when we act as though you didn't care about us or about this world. We are called to be those who live the faith of hope and reconciliation, of courage and understanding. Lift us up when we have fallen, guide our hearts when we speak, for it is in the name of our risen Savior Jesus that we ask these things. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "This Is the Feast"

**REFRAIN: This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign, Alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God;
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:**

("This Is the Feast" from "Services – The Holy Communion", copyright 1970 LCA, SELC, ALC, ELCC, LCMS, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Gracious Lord, this evening we come to you with so many things on our hearts. Keep our hearts and our minds open to your words of healing and of hope. Give us spirits of courage for all the times ahead. Give to us also, Lord, a spirit of peace and joy that we might live your love through our attitudes and actions. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:12-26

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When 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. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and 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. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry." (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. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "May his place be

7 All CHORUS
G D/F# A D G D/F#

life in the king-dom of God! Bring forth the
shine for the king-dom of God!
grow in the king-dom of God!
love is the king-dom of God!

10 Em A D G D/F# Em A D

king-dom of mer-cy, bring forth the king-dom of peace;

13 G D/F# G A D G D/F#

bring forth the king-dom of jus-tice, bring forth the

16 Em/G A D G D/F# A D

cit-y of God!

(“Bring Forth the Kingdom”, copyright 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., New Dawn License #44313.)

MESSAGE: “About Sand and Pearls” – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE ASCENSION READING: Luke 24:45-53

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "You Servants of God"

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**

**Ascended on high, almighty to save,
Yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give him his right,
All glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

+ + +

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold