

Easter 7, May 16, 2021, **Order of Worship**

Easter Shout of Joy: (repeat)

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Announcements, Concerns, Joys

Call to Worship, Psalm 1

P: Blest are those who do not walk in step with the wicked.

C: Blest are they!

P: Blest are those who do not stand in the way that sinners take.

C: Blest are they!

P: Blest are those who do not sit in the company of mockers or bullies.

C: Blest are they!

P: Blest are those who delight in the law of the Lord!

C: Yes, blest are they!

P: Blest are those who meditate on his law day and night.

C: Yes, blest are they!

P: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

C: They produce their fruit in season.

P: Their leaves do not wither,

C: and whatever they do prospers.

P: Not so the wicked! They are like chaff blown away by the wind.

They will not stand at judgment time.

C: No, sinners will not stand in the assembly of the righteous.

P: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

C: but the way of the wicked will be destroyed.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** *Oh, Love, How Deep* (public domain) LBW 88, ELW 322, HP 307
St. John, sing to *Just As I Am*, LBW 296

*Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortal's sake!*

*For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus still seeking not himself but us.*

*For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
For us he sent his Spirit here, to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*

***The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day** Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

A reading from Acts, the 1st chapter (1:15-17, 21-26) In the days between the ascension of Jesus and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death. -- After the reading, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

***Alleluia!** *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

***Gospel** **John 15:1-8**

Before the gospel: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

After the gospel: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Sermon

Hymn of the Day** ***Lord, Who the Night (public domain) LBW 206, ELW 463, HP 587
Sing to *Jesus Shall Reign*, LBW 530, ELW 434

***Lord, who the night you were betrayed did pray your church be always one;
Help us in worship always say, with willing soul, "Your will be done."***

***For all your church on earth, intercede; Lord, make our sad divisions cease;
Draw us in unity, O Lord, we plead, draw us to you, O Prince of Peace.***

***We pray for wand'ers from your fold: restore them, Shepherd of the sheep,
Back to the faith confessed of old, the faith your church is pledged to keep.***

***The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN!

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***The Prayers of the Church** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 184, Augsburg Fortress)

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear and answer us in steadfast love.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations, and all those in authority, in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, or rejected. Grant healing and grace to all in need. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us, and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints (especially Marion's sister Marie). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

Receiving the body and blood of Jesus

***Communion blessing**

***Prayer after communion**

***Benediction**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (public domain) LBW 364, ELW 655, HP 1708

*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.*

***Dismissal**

Now go in peace and share the good news! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!