

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA May 21, 2023 9:00 A.M.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

O God, we are one with you.

You have made us one with you.

You have taught us that if we are open to one another,
you dwell in us.

Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.

Help us to realize that there can be no understanding
where there is mutual rejection.

O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely,
we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you,
and we love you with our whole being,

because our being is in your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit.

Fill us then with love,

and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways,
united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world,
and makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love.

Love has overcome.

Love is victorious.

Opening Song

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Refrain: Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way. Kyrie Eleison every day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all,
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! **Refrain**

That we might live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! **Refrain**

Words and music by Larry Olson, ©1989 Dakota Road Music CCLI License #833795

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God,
and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Acts 1:1-14

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

L: Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds - his name is the Lord - and rejoice before him.

Men: A father to the fatherless,

Women: *a defender of widows,*

All: **is God in his holy dwelling.**

L: God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Men: Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

Women: *Our God is a God who saves: from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.*

All: **Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, to him who rides the ancient skies above,**

Men: Who thunders with mighty voice.

L: Proclaim the power of God,

Women: *whose majesty is over Israel,*

Men: whose power is in the skies.

L: You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.

All: **Praise be to God! We rejoice before him!**

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

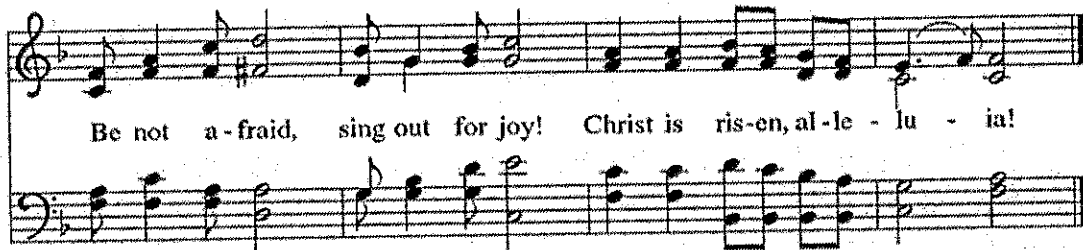
^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Alleluia



John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present.

We believe in God above us, the truth of God, who created all things seen and unseen.

We believe in God among us, the Word of God, Immanuel, who was born as Jesus, son of the virgin Mary, who was revealed as the Christ come to redeem all, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, who was crucified, died, and was buried, who on the third day, rose again and ascended into heaven, who will come again to vindicate all creation.

We believe in God within us, the Spirit, the breath of God, who gives life to all creation, who works within the people of God, who is present in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Communion, who forgives our sins, who give us eternal life.

We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present. Amen.

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Message Pastor Bob Lewis

RESPONSE

Hymn of the Day ***The Church's One Foundation*** vs. 1, 4, 5 #654

Confession and Forgiveness

God of unity,

we confess our broken condition and our separation. We tear apart the fabric of your world and distance ourselves from our neighbors. Sin rips apart what once was held together by your love. We desire unity but we are powerless to change on our own. We confess that we need a Savior.

Hear the good news! The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has brought the world back together. Our sin-shattered existence has been restored because of the life-giving sacrifice of God's son. Through the Holy Spirit, we have the power to change our vision for one life and world. We are one. We are one in God's new community. We are one in body and spirit. Praise God for forgiveness.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Children's Offering / Offering

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

#752

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.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

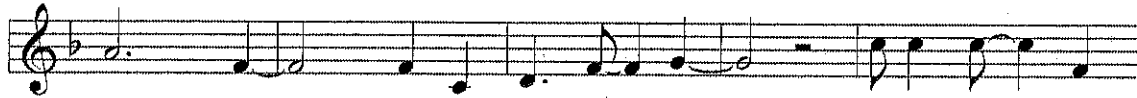
Closing Song

MADE FOR LOVE

Hans Peterson
Larry Olson
Mary Olson



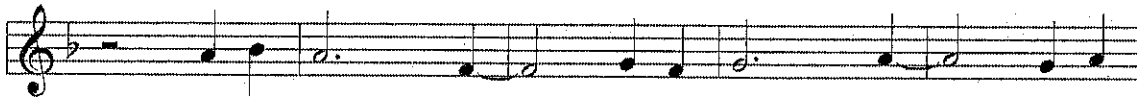
We've been mold - ed by the Cre - a - tor's hand. Here in



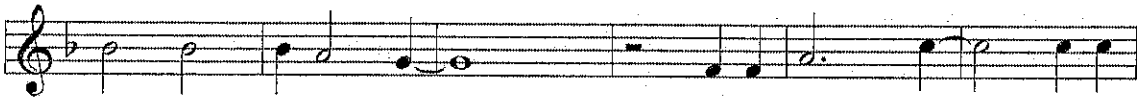
Je - sus we have grace to stand. Moving by the



Spir - it, we are made for love.



Sun and star - light, spark - ling wa - ters, morn - ing
In the wa - ter's ho - ly bless - ing, Spir - it
Live out jus - tice, treas - ure kind - ness, jour - ney



birds that ser - e - nade, in the i - mage of the
com - ing like a dove, we're a wit - ness to the
hum - bly ev - ry - day. We are called here in - to



Mak - er we are won - der - ful - ly made.
won - der; we are loved and so we love.
ser - vice, a for - giv - ing, lov - ing way.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Participants

Ministers: All the members
Pastor: Pastor Bob Lewis
DYME: Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist: Sharen Borchers
Pianist: Kris Kistenmacher
Lector: Deb Bagenstos
Deacons: Craig Fox and Grant Breyfogle
Greeters: Diane Droegmiller
Acolytes: Vada Martin and Laney Georg
Sound and Video: Lex & Gwen Jacobson
Coffee Hosts: Deb & Thad Bagenstos
Audrey Dittmer

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, May 21 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

FRIDAY, May 26

2:00 PM Bonnie Wallace funeral

SUNDAY, May 28 - The Day of Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship