

The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16, 2021
in the 168th Year of the Parish
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)
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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

An Order for Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Jesus, meine Zuversicht (Jesus My Confidence)*
Joann Gottfried Walther (1684-1789)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

P We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

**Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.**

*GREETING

P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

[A] In peace, let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] 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.

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. [C] A - men

***THIS IS
THE
FEAST**

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ② Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ② For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday (the Sunday after the Ascension) is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in the Gospel according to John on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

THE FIRST LESSON.....Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

15In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 16“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—17for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” 21So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” 23So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

**2Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

**4It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

**6For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 John 5:9-13

9If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. 10Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. 11And this is the testimony: 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, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John17:6-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.



[Jesus prayed:] 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. 12While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

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

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

C **Amen**

THE COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Wellspring of joy,
 through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
 Satisfy the hunger still around us,
 and send us as joyful witnesses,
 that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen

*HYMN **The Church's One Foundation**

**The church's one foundation
 is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 she is his new creation
 by water and the word.
 From heav'n he came and sought her**

**to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
Tune: AURELIA

***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in 7

John Rutter (b. 1945)

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am, Lou DeSeau/10:30 am, Karen Mariano
CANTOR/SONG LEADER Ray Huff (10:30 am)
ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: May 16

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Tim Maggs—Captain, Carl Heiber, Charlie Fortin, Nancy Larson
(side door)

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:

In loving memory of Grace Lehman by daughter Lois Winters Goldy

In honor of my dad by Todd Smith.

In honor of Harper Owen Jones' birthday by Sally Bijornstad

Our Stewardship (05/09/2021-05/10/2021)

Regular Offering	\$2,576.50
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 30.00
World Hunger	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 70.00
Global Mission	\$ 50.00
Sunday School	\$ 5.00
Capital Fund	\$ 50.00
Memorials	\$ 90.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 5.00

GRAND TOTAL **\$2,936.50**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday, May 17, Church Council, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, May 23, 2021 is the Day of Pentecost. Remember to wear an article of red clothing to worship. Red is the color associated with the Holy Spirit!

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones, hand washing and using hand sanitizer often. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COMMEMORATIONS

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor and/or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Friday, May 21, 2021

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.