

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH    EASTER 7**  
**MAY 21, 2023**

PRELUDE and WELCOME

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins*  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

In the waters of Baptism, we have passed over  
from death to life with Jesus Christ  
and we are a new creation.

**For this saving mystery, and for this water,  
let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:

**through the earth,  
through the city,  
through every living thing.**

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood,  
You opened wide the seas for the Israelites.  
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
**and our sin is drowned forever.**

You open the gates of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm the troubled waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

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 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.

**Amen.**

**HYMN: ELW # 392 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 every nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;**

**Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.**

**Though the cloud from sight received Him, When the forty days were o’er,**

**Shall our hearts forget His promise?— “I am with you evermore.”**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our Food, our Stay;**

**Alleluia! Here the humble Flee to You from day to day.**

**Intercessor, friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea;**

**Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**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.**

**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 every nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”**

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### ACTS 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When 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. All 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

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

**let those who hate God flee.**

As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;

**as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad; and rejoice before God;

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds—

**I AM is that name — rejoice before God!**

In your holy habitation, O God,

**you are a father of orphans and defender of widows;**

You give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom,

**but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain at the presence of God,

the God of Sinai,

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a bountiful rain, O God,

**you restored your inheritance when it languished;**

Your people found their home in it;

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

**sing praises to the Lord.**

You ride in the heavens, O God, the ancient heavens;

**you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God,

**whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel;

**giving strength and power to your people. Blessed be God!**

1 PETER 4:12-14

Beloved, 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. But 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. If 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

JOHN 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for 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. I 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And 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.**

SERMON

**HYMN ELW # 498 UNITED AT THE TABLE**

***Refrain* United at the table: all our joy is joined in song.**

**United in the faith: all our joy to God belongs.**

**We will praise God, we will sing alleluias with hymns and with psalmody;  
We will praise God for the love that sustains us eternally. *Refrain***

**We will praise God, we will feast at the bountiful table of life and grace;  
We will praise God and give thanks for communion with every race. *Refrain***

**We will praise God, we will play alleluias with rhythm and instruments;  
We will praise God for the love that invites all creation to dance. *Refrain***

## NICENE CREED

**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 became truly human.**

**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.**

**Who with the Father and the Son 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God.....**your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise  
to you, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

## MEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,

out of silence and emptiness you created the heavens and the earth.

The oceans sing your praise. The rivers chant your glory.

Out of Abraham and Sarah's dead end, you made promises, you granted laughter, you brought forth descendants to continue your story.

Out of the deathly power of oppression and slavery you liberated your people and blessed them with water, bread, wine.

Out of their lifeless wandering from your justice and mercy you sent them prophets who sang poems that serenaded them back to you.

In your great compassion for every tribe and nation, you sent Jesus, to bring everyone out of the tomb of hatred and sin and into a life of your love.

He fully embodied your compassion,

lifting up the poor, raising up the lowly, forgiving the sinner,

suffering, and dying so that no one need suffer injustice and fear anymore.

Out of the death of his own tomb,

you raised him up so your story of love will not end.

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.

Together with one voice, we celebrate the paschal mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit to fill us with the joy of the resurrection.  
Grant us hope beyond our comprehension.  
Bless these gifts of bread and wine,  
so that the endless life and love of Jesus may dwell in us,  
and flow from us through acts of love for our neighbours.  
Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,  
we give you more praise than we can utter,  
as we await that great day when the feast of your love  
has no walls, no exceptions, no end,  
when we gather with Christ, by the Spirit, and know life in you:  
love that cannot die,  
love that enlivens our weary bones,  
love that exceeds every hope and dream,  
love, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

#### **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.  
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*  
*"the body of Christ given for you"      "the blood of Christ shed for you"*



## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

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

### **HYMN ELW # 579 LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**Lord, You give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the Word."  
Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the Gospel go unheard,  
Help us witness to Your purpose with renewed integrity,**

***Refrain* With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, You call us to Your service: "In My Name baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust Your promise, life abundant meant for each,  
Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community. *Refrain***

**Lord, You make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,  
Asking that the world around us share your children's liberty. *Refrain***

**Lord, You show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."  
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that You so freely give.  
May Your care and mercy lead us to a just society. *Refrain***

**Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend  
And, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity. *Refrain***

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE