

# Sunday, May 16, 2021

## Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year B

### Introduction

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel 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!

### Order of Worship

Today is a non-communion Sunday. Pr David Penman preaches and presides. As a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, there is a Children's Meditation.

### Invocation

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

### Readings

[Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#)

*Matthias added to the apostles*

[John 17:6-19](#)

*Christ's prayer for his disciples*

### First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

*In the days between Jesus' ascension 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.*

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“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—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry....”

<sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning 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.”<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.<sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*Paschal Candle is extinguished here after the reading of the Acts passage, as a sign that the Ascension has taken place between last Sunday and this. (And before next Sunday, the paschal candle is moved back to its place by the baptismal font.)*

### **Gospel: John 17:6-19**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus’ words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

[Jesus prayed:]<sup>6</sup> “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.<sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> While 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.<sup>13</sup> But 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.<sup>14</sup> I 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.<sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.<sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.<sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.<sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

**Children’s Message:** Pr David Penman

### **Prayers of Intercession**

When I say, “Hear us, O God,” you respond, “**Your mercy is great.**”

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

*A brief silence is kept as we gather our prayers.*

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 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.**

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love 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.**

God of all ages, you provide teachers and grant wisdom among your people, that your Word might go forth in this and every place. As the Sunday School year ends this week, we thank you for those at Grace who work with Grace's children and youth week in and week out: for the Slugg family – Laura, Matt, Micah and Wyeth; Jaime Snyder Kaler; Charlie Roney; and for the Christian Connections Team – Tami; Laura; Joyce and Barb: Thank you, Lord!

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of life, we place our offerings, and the offering of ourselves, before you. Use us and our gifts to extend your work in the world, beginning outside our doors. We pray that you may be seen in and through the work of our hands.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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: *pause*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Peace**

As Usual

**Blessing**

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.**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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