



St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor

Sunday, May 24, 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Live in eager expectation of glory!

That glory is not dimmed by earthly suffering; rather, such suffering reminds us of the glory that awaits us. First the cross; then the crown. Our light and momentary troubles cannot mute the joy of living in eager expectation of glory.

The week that falls between Ascension and Pentecost is one of waiting and expectation for the promised Spirit and the promised glory.

Greeting by the minister

OPENING DIALOGUE:

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.

THE PRAYER FOR GRACE:

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 1:1-14 (NIV2011)

The disciples rightly expected glory; they just expected it too soon. The time would come for them to rule with Jesus in his kingdom. The time would come for glory that knows no limit. But that time had not yet arrived. The Christian life is not lived in glory here and now, but in eager expectation of the glory that's coming soon.

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 359 (next page)
"Jesus, My Great High Priest"

359

Jesus, My Great High Priest



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, Of - fered his blood and
 2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, Will I com - mit my
 3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears For my de - fense on
 4 Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell un -



died; My guilt - y con - science seeks No sac - ri -
 cause; He an - swers and ful - fills His Fa - ther's
 high; A gra - cious Fa - ther hears And lays his
 known Put their most dread - ful forms Of rage and



vice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
 bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
 thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
 mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, And now it pleads be - fore the throne.
 set— My Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
 say Shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
 plays Su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: BEVAN (66 66 88) John Goss, 1800–80.

SERMONETTE: *based on Ephesians 1:16-23 (NIV)*
“The Victory for All Eternity”

¹⁶ *I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

¹⁷ *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

¹⁹ *and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength*

²⁰ *he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

²¹ *far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

²² *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,*

²³ *which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed *(read in unison)*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH and THE LORD'S PRAYER:

M: Almighty Father, strong to save, we pray that you would look upon America in mercy. We confess our shortcomings as a nation and our failures as a people.

C: **The fault lies not only with some who have no regard for you. We, your very own people, share the blame for thoughts and actions that violate your code of conduct.**

M: And yet, you have not abandoned us. Your Word still echoes across our land. We still have the freedom to worship you in spirit and in truth.

C: We pray that you continue to allow us to bask in the splendor of your Word.

M: You have visited our nation and our world with a virus that causes alarm and death. We add this to the reasons why we need to remember that apart from you is neither hope nor life. Memorial Day is a day on which we remember loss, a day when we remember you as the one who restores blessings that have been lost.

C: As we consider the long list of people who have lost their lives in defense of this country, we thank you that they have not died in vain. You have blessed their efforts to keep us a free nation.

M: Now bless us with your continued presence as we strive to serve you in this freedom.

C: For the sake of your Son, bless all those who serve you by serving our country.

Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING:

M: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do his will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 169 (next page)
“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

ASCENSION

169

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -
 Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend
 Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the
 re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
 songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?"

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, abr., alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY (87 87 D) Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, alt.