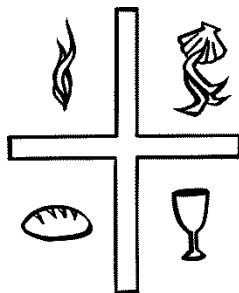


SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., MAY 16, 2021

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!



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by ☒ and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X) • "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI) • "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50) •

EASTER GREETING

Following the introductory verses:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☒ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A welcome and introduction to the day are made.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

302 N. Parker Dr., Janesville, WI 53545

Office Tel. (608) 752-3159

saintjohnlutheran@sbcglobal.net

www.sjlc-elca.org

Pastor: Rev. Bond Haldeman

Mobile Tel. (608) 208-0283

pastor.bond@sbcglobal.net

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

☞ We thank you, O God.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

☞ We bless you, O God.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

☞ We praise you, O God.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM (27)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

☞ The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,

☞ it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

³Though an army should encamp against me,

☞ yet my heart shall not be afraid;

⁴and though war should rise up against me,

☞ yet will I put my trust in him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God,

**☩ for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *180 Group video.*

FIRST READING: 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.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: 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 his law 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 is doomed.**

SECOND READING: 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.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

☩ Alleluia.

God is king over the nations;

☩ God sits on his holy throne.

Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord.

☩ I am coming to you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 17:6-19

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Ellen Westlund*

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩ 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
who 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

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☞ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Ask, and it will be given you;

☞ search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

☞ For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

☞ and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread,
will give a stone?

☞ ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,

**☞ how much more will your Father in heaven
give good things to those who ask him!**

Alleluia.

☞ Alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☞ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life . . .

Grace our table with your presence.

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**☩ 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

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.
Eat and be satisfied.

☩ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (122)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen.

¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

☩ ²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

**☩ ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

☞ ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

**☞ ⁸For my brethren and companions’ sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

**☞ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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The Power of Prayer

Here in the Gospel of John, at the close of Jesus' final speech to his disciples before he is arrested and crucified, he engages in a remarkable, even visceral act of love. He prays for his disciples.

When we pray, God already knows, of course, what is on our hearts. We are not bringing God any new information. But when we pray, we bring ourselves uniquely into God's presence. In prayer, we bring to God our deepest and most intimate needs, and we make ourselves vulnerable in a way we seldom allow in day-to-day life. This vulnerability is what strengthens our relationship with God, as any repeated physical actions strengthen our muscles. But prayer is not only for our own needs. Unexpectedly perhaps, it is intercessory prayer that nourishes us like nothing else. When we petition God on behalf of another person, we go outside ourselves, becoming other-focused in the way Jesus so fervently invites us to be in his own prayer in today's gospel passage.

In this moment so close to the end of his life, Jesus prays not for himself but for his disciples, whom he loves: "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. . . . 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" (John 17:11, 13).

How extraordinarily powerful it is to hear someone pray for you! As Jesus prepares to send his disciples out to preach and teach and baptize in his name, he equips them with the tool that strengthens our every act: he prays. He names them, along with his gratitude and his concerns, before God. That is a gift the disciples will be able to carry with them wherever they go.

