

EASTER 7



Sunday, May 21, 2023

Welcome to United in Faith!

*Welcome to all! We hope you feel God's presence here.
May the Spirit guide you into faith now and in the days ahead.*

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

For the benefit of all who are gathered here together for worship, we ask that you please silence all electronic devices before entering the sanctuary. Thank you.

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C = Congregation, P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister(s)
ELW page is for the liturgy in front of the cranberry book
ELW No. is for the Hymns in back of the cranberry book

PRELUDE

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P 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.

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 your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. 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.

Show us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

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

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"This Joyful Easteride

ELW Hymn #391

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 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.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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 Let us pray.

C Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47 *(read responsively)*

A ¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

C ²**For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

A ³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

C ⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

A ⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

C ⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

A ⁷For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

C ⁸**God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

A ⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW page 142

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.

GOSPEL Luke 24:44-53

P The holy gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please Be Seated)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"No Longer Strangers"

see insert

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A Ever-present God...

A Receive our prayers, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

("for whom else do we pray this morning...")

A 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.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

+ MEAL +

(Please Be Seated)

OFFERING

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW Hymn # 182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

ELW page 144

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW page 144

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory....

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving....

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Please Be Seated)

LAMB OF GOD

ELW page 146

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.

COMMUNION

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE.

(Please discard your plastic communion cup into the basket or empty tray.)

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

+ SENDING +

(Please Be Seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Bind Us Together"

see insert

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preaching and Presiding ~ Pastor Jeanine Reardon

Assisting Minister - Dian Hoyem

Organist ~ Lois Cornils

United in Faith Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*We Are To Be God's
Hands, Feet and Voice in the World*

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Jesus is Lord and Savior
Reflect God's Love
Pray and listen for God's guidance
Continue to strengthen faith
Include all in God's work
Meet people where they are

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*Rev. Jeanine Reardon, Interim Pastor
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This Week at United in Faith...

Monday, May 22, 2023	9:00 AM	Food Pantry
Tuesday, May 23, 2023	10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Golden Rebels Bingo Brownies Girl Scouts
Wednesday, May 24, 2023		
Thursday, May 25, 2023	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Food Pantry Golden Rebels Bingo
Friday, May 26, 2023	6:30 PM	AA
Saturday, May 27, 2023	9:30 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM	Al-Anon Knitting Group Survivors of Incest
Sunday, May 28, 2023	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Coffee Hour <i>Worship in-person & livestreamed</i>