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**Ascension /**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

Jesus said: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.” *John 17:20-21*

**AS WE GATHER**

All the Church does is based on our oneness with our Lord. In today’s Gospel, part of His High Priestly Prayer and the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus prays that we would be one, even as He and the Father are one. There is no other, for Jesus says He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). Our oneness will be evident, as He prays, when “the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26). But the Gospel is not limited to the present Church, for our Lord prays “also for those who will believe in Me through their word” (John 17:20). We pray that many join us as we rejoice with the psalmist: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:1-11

Pastor: A reading from Acts, chapter 1, verses 1-11:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 133***

Pastor: Behold, how good and pleasant it is

**People: when brothers dwell in unity!**

Pastor: It is like precious oil on the head,

**People: like the dew on the mountains.**

Pastor: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,

**People: life forevermore.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *John 17:26*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, we were united in the Body of Christ, the Church. He continually asks the Father that “the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” He gave His life so that nothing shall separate us from the uniting love of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OPENING HYMN** *“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”* (*LSB* 493)

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod,

ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand.

Alleluia, alleluia! And with His faithful foll’wers see

their Lord ascend in majesty.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”

Alleluia, alleluia! “This is the Savior,” thus they say;

“This is His glorious triumph day!”

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“You see Him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.”

Alleluia, alleluia! “Hereafter Jesus you shall see

Returning in great majesty.”

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our future great reward.

Alleluia, alleluia! Then, throned with You forever, we

Shall praise Your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to You let earth accord:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! You are, while endless ages run,**

**With Father and with Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**CONTINUED FIRST READING** Acts 1:12-26 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Revelation 22:1-6, 12-20 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 17:20-26 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love Thee, truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine!

**SERMON “*The Countdown Has Begun”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Crown Him with Many Crowns”* (*LSB* 525)

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;

hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,

and hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, the God incarnate born,

Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now His brow adorn:

fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,

the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,

rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.

No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,

but downward bend their wond’ring eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave

and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.

His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,

Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, enthroned in worlds above,

crown Him the king to whom is giv’n the wondrous name of Love.

Crown Him with many crowns as thrones before Him fall;

crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is king of all.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious Sacrament. Accompany us, we pray, that we exhibit in our daily living the unity we have with You, showing forth the love You have showered upon us each day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN** *“Armed Forces Hymn”* (tune of *LSB* 717)

Lord, for our soldiers now we pray,

Be Thou their shield by night and day.

Defend protect in peace and war,

And grant them grace forever more.

Our loved ones we commit to Thee,

God bless our Army family.

Eternal Father, grant we pray,

To all Marines, both night and day,

The courage, honor, strength and skill

Their land to serve, Thy Law fulfill;

Be Thou their shield forever more

From ev’ry peril to the Corps.

Eternal Father, strong to save,

Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who bidd’st the might ocean deep

Its own appointed limits keep.

O hear us as we cry to Thee

For those in peril on the sea!

Lord, guard and guide the ones who fly

Through the great spaces of the sky.

Be with them always in the air,

In dark’ning storms and sunlight fair.

O hear us as we lift our prayer

For those in peril in the air!

Eternal Father, Lord of Hosts,

Watch o’er the ones who guard our coasts.

Protect them from the raging seas

And give them light and life and peace.

Grant them from Thy great throne above

The shield and shelter of Thy love.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**