Easter
May 24, 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Welcome** to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge. **Welcome** to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. **Welcome**.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

This worship booklet is digital! Zoom in for larger print.

**Please use** phones and other devices frequently, to offer and receive encouragement.

**Remember** to wash your hands and clean surfaces frequently.

**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; but can still be practiced at home!

**Children** are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. If there are children in your house, invite them to worship with you.

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today’s gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.
Gathering
Consider lighting a candle, or putting a cross in your field of vision.
Throughout the liturgy, you may sit, stand, or kneel as you wish.

Words of Welcome
Prelude  
Let Zion Move as the Heart of One
Shaker Song, arranged by John Elmquist
Gathering Hymn

The Church’s One Foundation

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
She is his new creation by water and the word.
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
From heav’n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest.
Oh, blessed heav’n-ly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
And to one hope she presses with every grace endowed.
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876
Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

The First Reading Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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.”
Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68


Let your people shout for joy;  
let them cheer and chant your name,  
singing of the path you take,  
riding on the glory clouds.

Great protector, sorrow’s hope,  
grace from heaven for the earth,  
you bring home the dispossessed;  
you set slaves and prisoners free.  
Sing to God ‘round all the earth,

God whose freedom has no bounds,  
God who speaks for all to hear,  
God whose blessing is our life.

The Second Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**The Gospel**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 17:1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows.*
You Are Mine

1. “I will come to you in the silence,
   I will lift you from all your fear.

2. “I am hope for all who are hopeless,
   I am eyes for all who long to see.
   In the healing for the ones who dwell in shame.

3. “I am strength for all the despairing,
   I am the peace the world cannot give.
   All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and

4. “I am the Word that leads all to freedom,

   I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand
   still and know I am here.

   Come and rest in me.
   Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I
   love you and you are mine.”

(To stanzas 2 and 3)
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.

Children’s Message
Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding (like Nicholas Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whom the church commemorates today). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable (especially in nations currently in crisis). Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.
With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer  

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The Ebenezer Choir  

Thee We Adore

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274; tr. James R. Woodford, 1820-1885
melody: plainchant arr.: Ralph M. Johnson

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
   who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
   both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
   yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:
cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.
O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:
may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
the vision of thy glory, and thy grace. Amen

Sending

Blessing at the Beginning of a Deployment

Ryan Twaddle, who has been very active at Ebenezer in worship, choir, and our tutoring program has begun a deployment based in Japan with the United States Navy. We send him with our prayers and blessing.

As Ryan, who has blessed our congregation with his presence and gifts deploys overseas in service with the United States Navy, let us send him now with our blessing.

Ryan, having been called to service, will you continue to live in the promises of your baptism, and in service to others?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Steadfast God, you led your people through many lands and through many challenges, and everywhere you were with them to guard and guide them in your way. Accompany Ryan now in this deployment. Bless those he leaves behind and the new comrades ahead. Bless the work he has completed, all he must leave unfinished, and the tasks that are to come. Lift him up in your strength and your Spirit of hopefulness, that he may serve faithfully in every place and always walk with honor in your sight.

Amen.

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. May God look upon us with favor, + and give us peace. Amen.
Sending Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
2 Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  

the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.


Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude  
Allemande in F Minor  G.F. Handel