

The 7th Sunday of Easter: Sun., May 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Hymns: 644, 735, 696, 842, 529, 701; Liturgy: 204, 208, 210



The Greater Testimony

This Sunday is a bridge between the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost. Upon the Lord's Ascension, the disciples were not left alone. They had the Word of the Lord and the promise of the Spirit to make known to them all that Jesus said and did. With the testimony of God's Word and the witnesses to the Lord's resurrection and ascension, the Church learned to trust in what the Lord had accomplished for their salvation and to be bold in witness to the truth of this Gospel. The Lord is still working in us through the testimony of His Word so that we may be His witnesses emboldened by the Spirit.

644 The Church's One Foundation *stanzas 1-5*



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

C *(After silent meditation and reflection...)* **I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit *Psalm 27:1a, 4-5, 10, 14; antiphon: v. 7*

P Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

C **be gracious to me and answer me!**

P The LORD is my light and my salvation;

C **whom shall I fear?**

P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

P For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

C **but the LORD will take me in.**

P Wait for the LORD;

C **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

C **Glory be 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.**

- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
C be gracious to me and answer me!

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray... Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

First Reading *Acts 1:12-26*

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his

brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’” 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 men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show 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 numbered with the eleven apostles.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 5:9-15*

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that 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 that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *John 17:11b-19*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
God, For He stays close be - side you, In

give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text (stanzas 2-4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931-2010; Text (st. 1) and tune: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930; Text and tune: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Prayer of the Church

P In Your great mercy, O Lord, You have accomplished all things for our salvation and bore upon Your Son the cost of our redemption. Deliver us from doubt and fear that we may know with courage the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen and be made bold to confess this truth before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Guide Your church, O Lord, that we be united in faith and proclaim with one voice Him whose death, resurrection, and ascension have delivered us from sin and its death. Make us of one mind and one heart that we serve our neighbor with joy to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from war and violence, and bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear the voice of Your Word and act on our behalf that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives in this place. Bless those who protect us here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In the midst of temptation, make us strong, and in the midst of trials help us endure with patience and conviction the days of trouble. Bless especially those who suffer illness or infirmity, grief, or pain... Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need we pray You to grant us for the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Recognition of Graduates

P Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as Christ now leads you in your work and life after your High School Graduation, He also gives you many opportunities to express your faith and life in Him. Your Heavenly Father also gives you great opportunity to live the Good News of our Savior in the new relationships that you will make after your graduation. Therefore, I now ask you, are you willing and do you intend to serve in the mission of Jesus Christ and as a representative of your home congregation? Do you intend to grow and mature in God's grace throughout your whole life as it now unfolds before you? If so, then please answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P We pray... heavenly Father, we thank you for each of these graduates. We thank you that you have made them your children through Holy Baptism, that you nurture and sustain them through your Word, Sacrament, and congregational life, and that you are even now maturing them by your Spirit in their desire to serve you and witness to your eternal love in Jesus Christ. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Offering

Preface & Proper Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is good, right, and our very duty to praise You, almighty Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose death and resurrection have borne the good fruit of salvation for all who believe. Having shown to us His mercy, clothing us in His righteousness, grant that we be faithful in witness and fervent in love toward those who do not yet know Him. Bring us at last with all the saints of old and all the heavenly host, so that we may join their unending hymn, praising Your holy name and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ & Lord's Prayer

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

696 O God, My Faithful God *stanzas 1-4*

1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing,
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,
With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.
Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small
A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen; Text and tune: Public domain.

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.; Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansu, c. 1710, Amsterdam; Text and tune: Public domain.

529 Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus



1 Since our great High Priest, Christ Je - sus, Bears the name a -
2 Since we have a priest who suf - fered, Know - ing weak - ness,
3 Sac - ri - fice and suf - f'ring o - ver, Now He sits at
4 Love's ex - am - ple, hope's at - trac - tion, Faith's be - gin - ning



bove all names, Reign - ing Son of God, sur - pass - ing
tears, and pain, Who like us was tried and tempt - ed,
God's right hand, Crowned with praise, no more an out - cast,
and its end, Pi - o - neer of our sal - va - tion,



Oth - er ti - tles, pow'rs and claims— Since to heav'n our
Un - like us, with - out a stain— Since He shared our
His pre - em - i - nence long - planned; Such a great High
Might-y ad - vo - cate and friend; Je - sus, high in



Lord has passed, Let us hold our wit - ness fast!
low - ly place, Let us bold - ly seek His grace.
Priest we have, Strong to help, su - preme to save.
glo - ry raised, Our as - cend - ed Lord be praised!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938; Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt; Text: © 1973 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray... Leave us not orphans of Your love, O Lord, but continue to protect and lead those whom You have redeemed. As we have come to Your Table and received Your own gifts of life and salvation, send us forth as instruments of that life and salvation to the world around us. Grant us the Holy Spirit, that we may recognize Your voice in the Gospel and proclaim Your Gospel without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

701 Draw Us to Thee



1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy
2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us de -
3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the
4 Draw us to Thee That al - so we Thy heav'n - ly
5 Draw us to Thee Un - ceas - ing - ly, In - to Thy



steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where Thou art
part with glad - ness That we may be For - ev - er
road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest we should
bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where sin and
king - dom take us; Let us for - e'er Thy glo - ry



gone To be with Thee, dear Sav - ior.
free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
stray And from Thy paths be driv - en.
hell No more can vex our spir - it.
share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642-99; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig; Text and tune: Public domain.

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