



"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."

~John 17:6

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter– May 17, 2015

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Seventh Sunday of Easter– May 17, 2015

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!

The Seventh Sunday of Easter is sometimes given the subtitle “The Sunday after Ascension Day,” since the Ascension of Our Lord always falls on the preceding Thursday, which is the fortieth day of Easter. The story and meaning of the Ascension – the reign of Christ, his intercession on the world’s behalf at God’s right hand, and the promised coming of the Spirit – are echoed in today’s readings and hymns, and in a nod to the Ascension, we sing a paraphrase of the psalm appointed for Ascension Day, Psalm 47, today.

PRELUDE: *Variations on “Crown Him with Many Crowns” – Charles Callahan*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

Amen.

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 daughters and sons,
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.
Shower 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.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG #392: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

***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.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.**

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26-48 (page 118 in New Testament)

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶Friends, 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.

PSALM 47

1. All peo - ples, clap your hands And make God's prais - es known;
 2. All na - tions of the earth Are hum - bled by God's hand;
 3. God has gone up on high With shouts and trum - pet's voice;
 4. For God rules o - ver all, Sing praise with all your skill;
 5. The no - bles of the earth Are joined with A - br'am's seed;

The Lord most high is to be feared Who rules the world a - lone.
 God choos - es our in - her - i - tance, Gives Ja - cob this good land.
 Sing praise, sing praise to God who rules, Sing out your praise, re - joice.
 God sits up - on the ho - ly throne And rules all na - tions still.
 The ru - lers of the world are God's, The Lord is praised in - deed.

Text: Psalm 47, para. by Christopher L. Webber
 Music: William H. Walter

FESTAL SONG
 S M

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13 (page 241 in New Testament)

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

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.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat alleluia

I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am com - ing to you.

***GOSPEL READING: John 17:6-19** (page 111 in New Testament)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death. This gospel reports the words of Jesus' prayer, a prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

⁶I 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #655: Son of God, Eternal Savior**

***NICENE CREED**

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**

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church and the ministry of the gospel throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit guide our witness to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the creation, for trees and fruit, clean water and air, and all inhabitants of the earth, that God raise up careful stewards of the soil, air, and water, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For local, regional, and national leaders, for those who protect us from harm, and for this community, that we be led to the truth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide healing, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for the imprisoned and those who seek justice, for the bereaved and those who provide comfort, especially Nan, Jim, Robert, Frieda, Kathy, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen, that God protect all who are in need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those completing their studies this academic year, for those who travel and enjoy recreation, and for those gathered here and those absent, that through our joy we continually offer thanks to God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation and our pastoral candidate, that your Spirit lead us in our discernment, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith, that their witness to the resurrection of Christ inspire our words and our work, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #482: I Come with Joy

(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.

***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**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

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,

who, enthroned forever at your right hand,

intercedes for us as our great high priest.

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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

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



***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

At our 10:30 service today, we welcome Dominic Cardinal and Makenna Lydon to Christ's table as they receive their First Communion. We rejoice with them as they grow in faith, and pray that, as they grow, they come to know more fully the love of Christ Jesus.

Dominic and Makenna and their families are invited to receive communion at the table after the pastor and servers have communed; the congregation will receive communion in the usual manner after the families have been served.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Jesus Loves Me

Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain
Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

8

Be Not Afraid

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

Amen.

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Christ is the King!

1. Christ is the king! O friends, re-joice; broth-ers and
2. Oh, mag-ni-fy the Lord, and raise an-thems of
3. O Chris-tian wo-men, Chris-tian men, all the world
4. Let Love's all-rec-on-cil-ing might your scat-tered
5. So shall the church at last be one; so shall God's

sis-ters, with one voice let the world know he is your choicc.
joy and ho-ly praise for Christ's brave saints of an-cient days.
o-ver, seek a-gain the Way dis-ci-ples fol-lowed then.
com-pa-nies u-nite in ser-vice to the God of light.
will on earth be done, new lamps be lit, new tasks be-gun.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: George K. A. Bell
Music: Melchior Vulpius
Text © Oxford University Press, CCLI #3219012

GELOBT SEI GOTT
888 with Alleluias

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Chorale Prelude on HYFRYDOL* – Ralph Vaughan Williams

The flowers this week are given by Sally Foster in celebration of Makenna Lydon's First Communion.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Dave Knauff

Attendance Last Week: 63

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 55,108.85

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 54,535.034

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant: Sally Foster

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 89

Last Week's Giving: \$2,017.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 54,115.34

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

Be Not Afraid ©1998 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. agents. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-724822.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.