

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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#### ***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:***

*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.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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Samuel Leister  
Judy Armstrong

Vicar  
Secretary

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 24, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

### PREPARATION

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### GATHERING

- \* GATHERING HYMN “Jesus Shall Reign” #530 Green Hymnal
- \* GREETING
  - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
  - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
  - 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.**
- \* KYRIE
  - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P 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.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
  - C Amen.**
- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C 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

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

FIRST READING ..... Acts 1:6-14

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: ..... Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

**<sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

**<sup>6</sup>you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

**<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**<sup>10</sup>Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

**<sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**<sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

SECOND READING.....1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

\* GOSPEL..... John 17:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

\* HYMN OF THE DAY “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!” #157 Green Hymnal (vss. 1-4)

\* APOSTLES’ CREED (In Unison)

**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 THE PEOPLE

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

\* THE LORD’S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

## SENDING

\* BLESSING

P May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

\* SENDING HYMN “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!” #157 Green Hymnal (vss. 5-7)

\* DISMISSAL

P Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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