

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Strength and Unity Through the Word  
May 16 &17, 2015

**AS WE GATHER**

The Easter season culminates in the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus; He prays for us, for our faith, for our unity, and for our mission of faith to the world. With Ascension just behind us, this prayer reminds us that Christ continues to address us and to speak on our behalf before the Father. He prays for our unity, for our endurance, and for our faithfulness. We still pray for these things every Sunday. His work is not complete in us, and He is still at work in us and through us, even in the lives of our youth being confirmed in the faith.

**WELCOME**

**The Sixth Pledge “I Am A Church Member”**

This membership is a gift. In baptism, I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. I became a part of the body of Christ. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.

**HANDSHAKES & HUGS**

✂ PREPARATION ✂

**5:00 & 8:00 OPENING HYMN #578 “Thy Strong Word”** *Rise for last stanza*

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives, our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

(Rise)

**10:30 PROCESSIONAL HYMN #578 “Thy Strong Word”**

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For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
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Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

#### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

**People: I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. I have not honored my Lord's name as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and 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 my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. Except for the promise of Christ, I could not hope for reconciliation and peace. 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

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*Refrain This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.  
*Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. *Alleluia. Refrain*

#### SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you chose your servant Matthias to be numbered among the twelve apostles. You also chose us by the calling voice of your Word and the saving water of our Baptism. Keep us as your faithful people, whom you have chosen and set apart for your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

#### ☩ WORD ☩

**FIRST LESSON** Acts 1:12–26 (*The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot of Judas in preparation for Pentecost.*) Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his

brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, " 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and," 'May another take his place of leadership.' Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

**EPISTLE** 1 John 5:9–15 (*Whoever has the Son has life.*)

We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony; God has given us eternal life, and this life is his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I 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. This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**8:00** "Halle, Halle" *choral setting by Hal Hopson* St. Paul's Choir

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 17:11b–19 (*Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.*) Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I am coming to you now, but I say these

things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

(Be seated)

**5:00 & 8:00 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #583 "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"**

God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast;  
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;  
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our heart's again,  
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;  
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.

**SERMON** "Sanctified By The Truth" John 17:11b - 19

(Rise)

**5:00 & 8:00 NICENE CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, ***please sign our attendance book*** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

**10:30 OFFERTORY** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

**10:30 RITE OF CONFIRMATION** (See insert)

(Rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Living in Christ and guarded by the power of His name, we come before you, O Lord, to deliver up prayers for ourselves, for the Church and for all people as they have need. Keep us, O Lord, lest the power of the enemy steal what belongs to you. Guard our unity of faith, that we may be one in Christ as Christ is one with you, Father and the Spirit.

**People: Sustain us as your people, that we may live faithfully in the world without being overcome by the prince of this world and his lies.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, and all who serve us in your name. Bless the Word they preach and teach, the Sacraments they administer according to your bidding and the faithful shepherd's care they show to all your flock.

**People: Bless Matthew, our Synodical president; John, our district president; Harold and Gregg, our pastors; and all church workers. Bless especially Ashley and Bethany as they deliberate the call to serve in our school.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, that we may walk in Christ — the way, the truth and the life — and not depart from Him. Bless all schools, colleges and seminaries and those who teach and those who learn, but especially those preparing to be pastors and for all church work vocations.

**People: Bless our confirmands, that they may continue to grow in your Word, walk faithfully with Christ, and serve you joyfully all their days.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, for the world is filled with enemies of your Word, your kingdom and your people. Bring to nothing the plots and plans of those who foster violence and hate. Place your blessing upon all our leaders who work for peace.

**People: Grant all leaders in our nation to walk with integrity and to protect the weak and the unborn. Bless Barak, our president; Scott, our governor; Dan, our mayor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Defend those who protect us, here and far away.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, when illness afflicts us, despair touches our hearts and death claims those whom we love especially remember your servants; Judy, Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Eleanor, Hermine, Jack, Marge, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

**People: Give to each, according to your grace, the healing, strength, patience and comfort they need to endure the trials of this mortal life, and bring them with us to the joy of life everlasting.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, for we are weak and prone to wander. Lead us to cling to the true treasure of your love when the world tempts us. Guide us by your Spirit day by day.

**People: Open our hearts to the joy of giving, that we may return to you what is yours and use your resources in ways that honor you and extend Christ's kingdom.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, and fill us with joy and thanksgiving for all your blessings. We rejoice with Melissa and Justin as this weekend they have been joined together as husband and wife. Bless them to live in love all their days.

**People: We also rejoice with Dave and Diane as they celebrate their anniversary and give thanks with Jean as she remembers her late husband, Al, and the 29 years of life they shared together.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, that what we receive in this Holy Eucharist may nourish us for life within your kingdom and nurture us to goodness, holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.

**People: Fill us with your Spirit, that we may live in ways that please you and glorify Christ.**

Pastor: Keep us, O Lord, that we may not live in anxiety or distress. Help us to know the comfort of your grace and to deliver into your hands all the burdens, fears, troubles and trials of this mortal life, trusting in Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all things.

**People: Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**10:30 HYMN #411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**HYMN #821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us: Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.  
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

**HYMN #493 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Stanzas 1-5**

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before un-trod,  
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!

### **HYMN #702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

### **5:00 & 8:00 CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

### **10:30 RECESSIONAL HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
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Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Debbie Ulbing, Dalen Heinzen, Jim Adams
Acolytes	Claire Igielski, Thomas Kadolph, Isaac Kallas
8:00 Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
10:30 Violinist	Abigail Lindholm
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

## Our Confirmands



<i>Cassandra Lynne Barry</i>	<i>Jay Douglas Graf</i>
<i>Riley Darian Hoeg</i>	<i>Abigail Paige Hoffman</i>
<i>KeyGan Michael Jones</i>	<i>Sydney Faith Kadolph</i>
<i>Joshua Richard Klement</i>	<i>Benjamin Samuel Leiser</i>
<i>Madeline Elisabeth Matusewic</i>	<i>Nikolas Dean Mueller</i>
<i>Ryan Scott Murray</i>	<i>Thomas Richard Quigley</i>
<i>Brian James Schaber</i>	<i>Noah Christopher Zimmermann</i>

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*In consideration of others, please do not text/twitter during the worship service in the sanctuary. Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.*

*Privacy and prayers: Please know that anytime we print the name(s) of anyone for whom prayers are requested (including military) we print either the first name, last name, or both at the request of family. We respect the privacy of members of those for whom we pray. We will gladly keep the names of relatives of members in the bulletin for two weeks, unless a longer period of time is specified by our member.*