

Sunday, May 13, 2018
Seventh Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

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!

PRELUDE

"Hyfrydol"

Gregg Sewell

***GATHERING SONG**

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

***GREETING**

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

G **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Gloria”

pg. 176

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Gracious and glorious God,*

G **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!**

ANTHEM

“Morning Has Broken”

arr. Arlen Clarke

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

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, ¹⁶“Friends, 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.

Reflection

What happened to Judas after Jesus’ death? (Luke’s explanation is in verse 18; Matthew has a different explanation in Matthew 27:3-10) What was the believers’ task after Judas’s death? (verses 21-22) How were the people nominated? (verse 23) How was the next apostle chosen?

(verses 24-26) What do you think of their method? Why do you think they cast lots, instead of voting? Do you think we should choose our leaders in the same way? Why or why not?

PSALM 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

Reflection

I think this psalm is an interesting (and good) choice for the reflection on the choosing of Matthias to be the next apostle. What are the qualities of the righteous? (verses 1-3) Notice that the psalmist describes not only what the righteous do, but also what they do not do. How are the wicked described? (verse 4) What will happen to the wicked when judgment comes? (verses 5-6) How do we take these qualities into account when we choose leaders?

SECOND READING

1 John 5:9-13

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.

Reflection

How do we receive the testimony of God? (verse 10) What if human testimony contradicts the testimony of God? (verse 9) What is the testimony of God? (verses 11-12) What if someone doesn't believe that Jesus has given us life from God? (verses 10-12) Why has the writer written this letter? (verse 13) There is a certain circularity about John's writing. How do we know that

what he writes is true? How do we know that what he writes is true for us?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Alleluia!

***GOSPEL**

John 17:6-19

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Reflection

How does Jesus describe the love he has for his disciples (that means us!)? (verse 9) This text continues the thought from the 1 John text about obeying God’s commandments. How does Jesus define obeying God’s commandments? (verse 10) Sometimes we think of obedience to God as something imposed on us. This text invites us to imagine obedience as dwelling in the household of God, rather than in the hovel of poverty of love. What does Jesus say will happen to us when we follow what he says? (verse 11) What does Jesus command us? (verse 12) What is the difference between life as friends with someone and life as servants of someone? When we serve Jesus and his friends, what do we become? (verses 14-15) Have you ever wanted to become friends with someone, but did not feel welcomed by them? How do we become friends with Jesus? (verse 16) As you reflect on this text this week, think about Jesus befriending us so that we may love one another. If we love one another, what kind of fruit will we bear?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Emptied for Witness"

Brenda Bass

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in dark and sin
 my hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them.
 They turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them.
 Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

"I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them.
 My hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' 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!

***PRAYER SONG**

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him,
and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen;
open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus. *(repeat)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

End divisions within your church, O God. Open us to receive your testimony. Make us one as you are one. Make our joy complete. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nourish the soil of your earth, holy God. Bless the trees planted by the water, and bless the seeds planted by birds and by our hands. Bring forth fruit in due season. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for warring nations, political refugees, and peacekeepers. Wash away the fear and hatred that tear us apart. Let justice roll down like a mighty stream. Quench our thirst for peace in every land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are homeless, naked, hungry, imprisoned, abandoned, or sick *especially Dorothy, Mary Anna, Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Send us to shelter, clothe, feed, and visit those in need. Make us your healing and compassionate presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for mothers we love and mothers we struggle to love. For adoptive mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers. For those who long to be mothers. For everyone who has mothered us in the faith. Give rest, healing, wisdom, and strength, mothering God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You give us eternal life in your Son. When doubts and fears arise, give us peace in the resurrection promise. Sanctify us in your truth and unite us with all the saints. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Refrain

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***

**Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“As the Grains of Wheat” vs. 2

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

G **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.**

Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **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,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
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**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

☐ *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.*

*With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

- C** Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Lord, 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!

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Now let us feast on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Life-giving God,*

- C** in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.*

*Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

C Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"Majesty"

Majesty, worship His majesty:
unto Jesus be all glory,
honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
flows from His throne
unto His own;
his anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high
the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify
Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty:
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings. *(repeat)*

Ending

Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

***DISMISSAL**

- Alleluia! Christ is risen.***
- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!****
- You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.***
Go in peace. Share the good news.
- Thanks be to God!****