



## Rogation Sunday

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 16, 2021

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.  
For in-person worshippers, you are invited to listen  
as the Cantor sings the music.*

## Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “Beautiful Savior”

Setting by Cathy and David Mockelbust  
Nancy Timm, handbells; Sharon Malm, piano

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

God is Creator. In our thoughts and deeds we have often sinned against our God and God's intentions for creation. Sometimes even our best intentions do not seem to last long. Let us take time to be honest with God and ourselves and to confess our shortcomings.

**Almighty God, you have created what we your people need to sustain our earthly lives. Yet, we confess that we have often neglected to care for your creation as we should, for the earth, for the land, for our own bodies, minds, and spirits, and for our neighbors. We have not truly loved you as we should, and we have not sown spiritual seeds in our lives and produced spiritual harvests like we should. Forgive us and set us on a new path that is life-giving to ourselves and the world around us.**

Through Jesus Christ, God knows us and accepts us as we are. God hears our prayers and forgives us all our sins. We can go forth now renewed and refreshed on the pathway of new life. For this amazing gift of forgiveness and renewal, we rejoice and say together,

**Thank you, God! Amen!**

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Creating God, you made our world and all that is in it. We give you thanks for all you have given us, and we ask your guidance so that we can be good stewards of this earth. We pray for your help and inspiration as we enter a new season of planting and growing, that we may work the land carefully, and always show love for your creation. We pray this in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

5In 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm Interpretation

“When I Look Up” based on Psalm 19, *online only*

From *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*

## A Reading from the Epistles — 1 John 5:9-13

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Gospel** — **John 17:6-19**

The Gospel of John, the 17th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] 6“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. 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.**

**Sermon** — “Jesus Prays for Us--To Be Different”

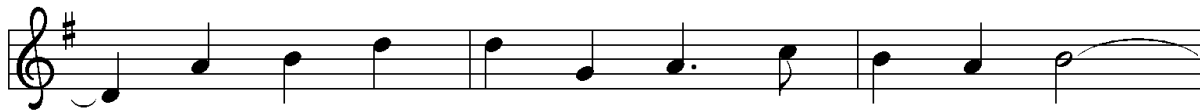
Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

### \*Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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 Intercession

Let us pray to the God who has created us and all that exists in this world.

We pray for those people in the world who go hungry every day and for the children who have not known the taste of bread. We acknowledge that many have an excess of food and lament that so much ends up wasted when others go without. Creating God, **may we be your good stewards.**

We pray for all the farmers in our area who till, plant, and care for the land. Guide them to make humane and sustainable decisions to show great concern for the earth and all living things under their care. Creating God, **may we be your good stewards.**

We pray for all who plant gardens of vegetables, fruits, and flowers. We give thanks for farm-to-table practices, locally sourced produce, farmers' markets and CSAs, and food for our many pollinators that make up a crucial part of our ecosystem. Creating God, **may we be your good stewards.**

We pray now for those people close to us who need love and a healing touch in their lives. We also lift up families in mourning over the loss of loved ones. Remind us that even in death, we have the promise of new life. Creating God, **may we be your good stewards.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Offering

*Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.*

*You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

**Special Music** — “Now the Green Blade Rises” (*in-person only*)      Setting by Cathy and David Mockelbust  
Nancy Timm, handbells; Sharon Malm, piano

# Departing to Serve God's World

## Announcements

**Blessing for Rogation Sunday** (*for in-person worship, we will process outside at this time while “For the Beauty of the Earth” is sung*)

Creating God, we seek your blessing on this new season of planting, growing, and harvesting.  
**We dedicate to you our seed, our time, our equipment, and ourselves.**

*Blessing for seed:*

Life-giving God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, you give seed to the sower and bread for food. Nourish, protect, and bless the seed that we sow in hope, so that it may bring forth fruit and a good harvest in due season and be gathered with thanksgiving to satisfy the needs of your people. For our seed, **we ask your blessing.**

*Blessing for soil:*

Loving God, the soil serves as the medium for the seed to grow, and it provides warmth, nourishment and support so that new life may emerge. Bless the soil that it may feed and nourish the seed, and bless those who work this soil and harvest the crops. For the soil and for our farmers and gardeners, **we ask your blessing.**

*Blessing for garden plants:*

Caring God, plants and seeds for our gardens produce food for ourselves and for others, vital homes and nutrients for our pollinators, and beauty for our communities. Bless these plants so they may grow in nourishment and shine forth for all to see. For these plants, **we ask your blessing.**

*Blessing for equipment:*

Merciful God, we bring forth symbolically our tools that will be used to support planting and growth. Grant us safety in use, patience when repairs are needed, and the readiness to help others when needed. For our equipment, **we ask your blessing.**

*Blessing for rain and sunshine:*

Gracious God, in your mercy send us good weather—rain and sunshine—so that our fields and gardens may bring forth an abundant harvest for the good of our families, our community, and our world. For all your many blessings we give you thanks and say **AMEN!**

## **Benediction and Dismissal**

May God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer bless our fields and gardens, and all who tend and labor there. May the soil be wholesome, the weather favorable, and the crops good. May God be with us in our faith, our work, our congregation, and our lives. May we go now in peace to serve all of creation. **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**Postlude** — “Now the Green Blade Rises” (*online only*)

Setting by Cathy and David Mockelbust  
Nancy Timm, handbells; Sharon Malm, piano

## **Acknowledgements**

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### **Online Assistants**

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Lector/Assistant: Molly and Callie Voeltz  
Psalm reader: Malcolm McHugh

### **In Person Assistants**

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Greeter/Reader: Mary Spear  
Ushers: Cindy and John Nadeau

## **Announcements**

**Call Committee Volunteers:** The church Council is asking for suggestions and/or volunteers to serve on the call committee to select our next pastor. Please contact any Council member with your suggestion or if you wish to volunteer. Our constitution limits the committee to seven members selected by the Council.

**FLC Calendar:** With so much starting up again in our church community, we are trying to stay organized! Do you have a meeting to schedule? Need to know if a certain space or time is available? Check the FLC website and head to the calendar page to see what's going on! <http://www.flcstp.org/calendar--events.html>

**New Office Hours and Need for Volunteers:** We are currently in the process of finding and hiring a new Office Coordinator. In the meantime, we are making a temporary change in our office hours and seeking volunteer help to have assistance during these reduced office hours. New Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday to Friday. Volunteer Assistance: We need help during those hours each day the church office is open. Cheryl Kautt has agreed to coordinate the volunteer responses. Ideally, it would be great if we had enough volunteers so that a person would need to serve only once a week, or even part of the morning hours. If you can assist, contact Cheryl at 507-301-7086 or via email at [ckautt@hickorytech.net](mailto:ckautt@hickorytech.net).

**In Person Worship, No Pre-registration Required:** Because of the continuing improvement in our area in regard to the Covid situation and because so many of our members have received the vaccines, we can now open in person worship for people to come without having to register to reserve space. We have the capacity to safely have more people attending worship. Our key experts on the Health Advisory Team feel that this is a safe and reasonable move. Of course, masks and safe distancing will still be required. We are thankful that our members and guests have been very good at observing the Covid protocols. We look forward to seeing you in church!

**Lutheran Social Services, Site Coordinator for their Meals on Wheels program in St. Peter.** Is a paid, Monday-Friday position, 10am-12pm. If you are interested in applying or want to learn about the position, please contact Samantha Haseltine at 651-253-4355 or [Samantha.haseltine@lssmn.org](mailto:Samantha.haseltine@lssmn.org).

**Prayer Chain Getting A Fresh Start:** Inreach/Outreach committee invites members to become part of a prayer chain. We will also offer a brief training for prayer chain volunteers. Please contact Amy Pehrson at [amyperhson@gmail.com](mailto:amyperhson@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer on our prayer chain team.

**Prayer Concerns:** We are called to remember Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge and one another in prayer. We lift-up prayers of healing for all others in our personal prayers this week including Amy Ronnkvist's mother, Kathy Matthews. We also pray for all the families who mourn the loss of loved ones.