THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 12, 2024 "Following Jesus When Life is Not Picture-Perfect"

THE OPENING HYMN #490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" 1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a bove all things is 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will Je - sus I, to lives! I know Noth - ing 4 Je - sus full well me from Him shall 5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -6 4 Death's pall me; Je sus lives! reign is done! shall where He gone, giv en. Ι go is Pure liv ing, in heart and act a - bide, Nei ther death pow'rs of hell nor sev er. This shall mor tal; calm my trem bling breath 1 From the grave will Christ re call me. Bright - er Live and reign with Him in heav God is en. All Praise to Him and glo - ry giv ing. Ι Part now from Christ for God will me ev er. When gloom - y Faith shall Ι pass its por tal. $\overline{}$ scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con fi - dence. faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con fi - dence. God will dis - pense; This shall need be my con fi - dence. de - fense; be my sure This shall be my con fi - dence. fails each sense: cry, as Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

THE INVOCATION

(please stand)

- P: In the name of the Father and of the
 ^I Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

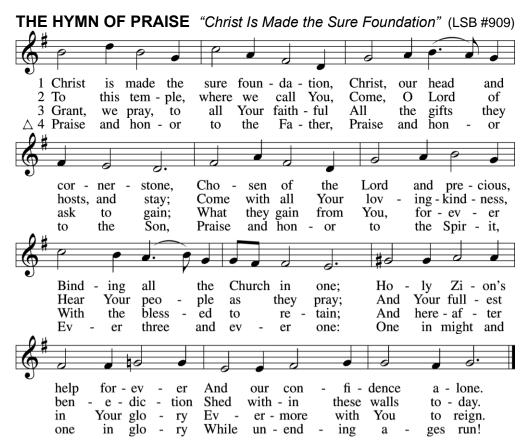
(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C: I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so 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 you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. 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.
- C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE INTROIT Psalm 27:1a, 4-5, 10, 14; antiphon: Psalm 27:7

- P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
- C: be gracious to me and answer me!
- P: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
- C: whom shall I fear?
- P: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
- C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.
- P: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
- C: He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.
- P: Even if my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.
- C: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
- C: be gracious to me and answer me!



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

- P: Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE FIRST READING Acts 1:12-26 (ESV)

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet [*after Jesus' Ascension*], which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the

reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it' and 'Let another take his office." *[69:25; 109:8]* "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when He was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to His resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 5:9-15 (ESV)

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever 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 that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

- P: This is the Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (#821 Verse 5)

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."

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11b-19

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus is praying] "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are One. While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given Me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your Word, and the

world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE The First Petition of the Lord's Prayer and Meaning from Luther's Small Catechism

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also. *How is God's name kept holy?* God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



THE SERMON "Following Jesus When Life is Not Picture-Perfect" Text: Acts 1:12-26

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS (pages 192-193 in the hymnal) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord in Your mercy," "Hear our prayer.")

THE 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.

THE BENEDICTION

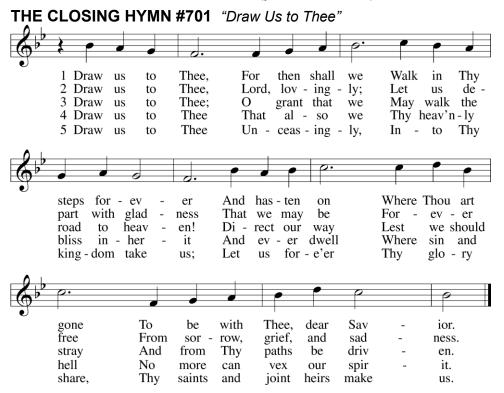
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✤ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)



THE ANNOUNCEMENTS



You can help!

This summer at the LWML Convention at Okoboji in June, one of the service projects will be packing **hospice kits** for Global Health Ministries.

Items needed are:

- New, or like new, regular sized bath towel around 52" long
- * New, or like new, washcloth not microfiber
- * Single packaged bath-size bar of unscented soap
- * Single packaged toothbrush
- * Pick-style comb
- * Nail clipper toe nail preferred
- Box of Band-Aids
- * Small jar of petroleum jelly (about 4 oz)
- * Heavy duty household kitchen gloves size medium
- * Pillowcases in good condition

Please bring one, or more, of the above items. A box will be available in the narthex until June 2.



