

# Worship in the Home

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020



*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.*

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*This Joyful Eastertide*

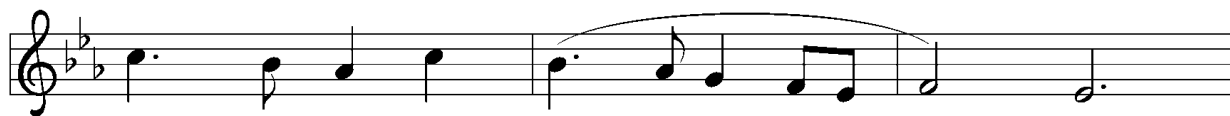
*ELW #391*



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

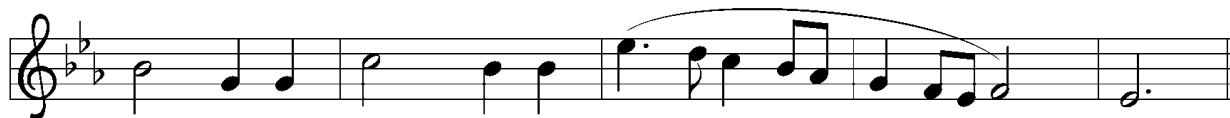
### *Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray....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.**

**First Reading:** Acts 1:6-14

**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!

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

**Gospel:** John 17:1-11

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, 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.”

## **Reflection**

Our brothers and sisters in all the world are indeed undergoing suffering now. And, amid that suffering, there are sometimes too many words: complaints; misinformation; self-justifications; accusations. But Jesus Christ has given us the very words of God. And those words will restore, support, strengthen and establish us. They give us life. They will make us one with God and so with all of God’s people. Usually, outside of this time of pandemic, the church hears those words of God in the words of forgiveness at the font, in the scriptures read and preached in the assembly, and in the very body and blood of Christ given to us together to eat and drink. But this is not a usual time. Out of care for our neighbors and our world, out of concrete love, we stay apart. Yet, amazingly, the very words of God are still given to us: we read and sing them in our homes, like those early Christians devoted to prayer in that Jerusalem house. Our own homes can become a place of the word of God. Our regular meals can be a place of unity in the presence of Christ, as we wait to return to the fuller unity of the Sunday assembly in the church. Here are three of the words we have now: “Resist the roaring lion” who wants to devour you with anger and fear. And “cast all your anxiety on God, for God cares for you.” And “love one another as I have loved you.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, we gather in our homes and yet together as one, praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

In this time of troubling separation, we pray to you, triune God, for the unity of your churches. Bind us together in the truth of your gospel. Make us witnesses of your mysterious might. As you blessed the early disciples for their unfolding ministry, bless those who lead and serve our local congregation. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture the life of your creation. Support those who explore the mysteries of your universe. We praise you for all the scientists who have enriched our understanding of creation. Help all online teachers to instruct our children in the ways of nature. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

As we prepare for Memorial Day, we pray for peace around the world. Protect all soldiers, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Shield the vulnerable who live in paths of violence. We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan and Syria. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Come to the aid of all who suffer. We pray for those who are laden with grief, overwhelmed by anxiety, or struggling without medical care. Uphold all health-care workers who attend to coronavirus patients. Comfort all families and friends who cannot embrace their loved ones at the time of death. We give into your care all the sick, especially those we name here before you...God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Again we pray: give the world a vaccine. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Grant your oneness to humankind, so marked by isolation and division. Bring harmony to families, rival gangs, distraught citizens, racial groupings, and members of our legislatures. Give to each individual a wholeness that is birthed in you. Make us one, as you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Make us steadfast in the faith, and graciously receive our personal petitions: God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

To know you is to have eternal life. We praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith and who now live in you. At the end, bring us with all your saints into your presence. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

With bold confidence in your love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God of our past, our present, and our future, we place all for whom we pray into your circle of love, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*\*There is no Zoom today. The Postlude & Closing Hymn  
are posted on Facebook. \*\***

## Hymn

## Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## Worship Schedule

Monday: Hymn Devotions, 9AM & 9PM (pre-recorded)

Tuesday-Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM

Tuesday-Friday: Kids' Devotions & Otto Sings Camp's Greatest Hits, Midday

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer, 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM

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Tuesday: Camp Sequanota Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (Zoom link on Camp's page)

## Study Schedule

Wednesday: 10AM Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday: 7PM \*only\* Final Book Discussion on Kathleen Norris' [The Quotidian Mysteries](#)

## Do you have a favorite hymn?

*The Worship & Music Committee will be considering recommended hymns for Sunday worship and Monday Hymn Devotions. If you have a favorite hymn, comment on the St. Matthew Facebook page post or email St. Matthew by noon on Wednesday.*

**Worship & Music** is scheduled to have a meeting on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

## Readings for the Week:

**Monday** Psalm 99. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 4:7-11. **Wednesday** (commemoration of John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564) 1 Kings 8:54-65. **Thursday** Psalm 33:12-22. **Friday** (commemoration of Jiří Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637) Romans 8:14-17. **Saturday** (Vigil of Pentecost) Romans 8:14-17, 22-27. **Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39. Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw  
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**Prayers and Congratulations** go to Lori and Jimmy Reimer upon the birth of a daughter, Vivienne Rose, Monday, May 18, 2020. Grandparents are Rick and Cindy Snyder, Great Grandfather, Don Smith.

**Committee Chairs:** Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email ([stmatthewluth@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewluth@aol.com)) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

**Weekly Bulletins and Messengers** are available on the **NEW** website ([stmatthewlc.com](http://stmatthewlc.com)) for viewing or printing.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** John Aljets, Jerry Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Sarah Frederick, Shari Gilbert, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jillian, Connie Kensinger, Dan Kensinger, Anna Klepser, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Matt McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Ray Overdorff, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Cindy Thomas, Joey Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Those Serving Overseas:** Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

**Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...**

- Rick and Cindy Snyder and family upon the death of Rick's brother, Jeff Snyder, on Monday, May 18, 2020.
- Arnold and Becca Moore upon the death of Arnold's mother and Becca's grandmother, Betty Jane Moore, Wednesday, May 20, 2020.



**Prayers and Congratulations** go to Jason and Jessica (Orczeck) Close upon their wedding today, May 24, 2020. Proud parents are Shawn and Laura Orczeck.

**Young at Heart Dinner** due to Covid-19 the dinner is postponed indefinitely.