

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 29, 2022

FOR THE GATHERED

God's staggering intervention!
Paul and Silas were in a dungeon.
Their feet shackled to the wall.
Their iron door locked shut.

Then God shook their world –
and their jail cell.

May God stagger our worlds today.



Assembly may stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – ELW 95

(Pastor) Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and of one another. Gracious God –

(All) - have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you, and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry, and humbly repent.

In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done, and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Pastor) God, who is rich in mercy, loved us, even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Sit

GATHERING SONG – BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR – ELW 838

Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

KYRIE – ELW 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord God, you shook the foundations of the prison cells that held the early apostles. But today, we have more insidious cells that keep us from each other – and from you.

Their walls are poured from the cement of anxiety, fear, loneliness, and discouragement. Their chains keep us from running to you. They keep us from others. They are strong.

Lord, be stronger. Fill our fellowship with overpowering compassion, and solid kindness. May we together break free, and run together – to a new dawn.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

In this incredible miracle of God freeing a woman of demon possession, his servants – Paul and Silas – were then witnesses to another miracle of being freed of their chains in prison, as they sang songs to God.

As we were going over to the place of prayer, we met a slave woman who had a demon. She brought her owners much profit by fortune-telling. She followed both Paul and us. She would cry out, "These men are servants of the Most-High God. They proclaim to us a way of salvation."

She kept doing it for many days. Paul, very much grieved, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her." And it came out.

When her owners saw their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas. They dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers, and then the magistrates. They said, "These men are greatly disturbing our city, being Jews. They are advocating customs that are not lawful for us to receive, nor to do, since we are Romans.

The multitudes rose together against them. Magistrates tore their outer garments away. They commanded that they be beaten with rods. Having whipped them many times, they threw them into prison, and ordered the jailer to keep them locked away securely. The jailer put them in the innermost cell, and he fastened their feet in the stocks.

At midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, and the prisoners heard it. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so the foundations of the prison were shaken. Immediately, all the cell doors were opened, and every prisoner's chains were loosed.

When the jailer came out of sleep, he saw that the prison doors were all wide open. He drew his sword to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself. We are all here."

The jailer called for lights, sprang in, and he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside, and said, "Sirs, what must I do – that I may be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, and your household."

Then, in his house, they spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all in his household. At the same hour of the night, he washed their wounds. Then they all were baptized. The jailer set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

The Lord reigns; let the | earth be glad.
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
Dark clouds are | near the Lord.
Purity and justice | set his throne.

Fire goes before | our great God,
burning up enemies on | all his sides.
Lightning falls | on his world.
The earth sees | and is shaken.

The mountains tremble and | melt like wax,
before the Lord | of all lands.
Heaven shows | your great power.
All the people | see your glory.

Confounded will be all who worship idols,
and who delight | in false gods!
Bow down before the Lord, | all such gods.
Zion hears and is glad,
and the cities of Judah | are made glad,
from your judgments, | O great Lord.

For you are Lord, high over | all the earth.
You are exalted above | all false gods.
You who love the Lord, | hate all evil!
God guards his people | from the wicked.

Light dawns beautifully | for the righteous,
and joy for those | with pure hearts.
Rejoice in the Lord, | you pure ones.
Give thanks to | his holy name.



SECOND READING: Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

In the majestic vision of St. John, Christ beckons us to live in paradise. He will give us the precious fruit of the Tree of Life. He will feed the hungry, and bring the water of life to the thirsty.

"I am coming soon. My reward is with me, to repay everyone according to their work. I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the beginning and the end.

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, so they will have the right to the tree of life. They will enter the holy city by the gates. It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to (John). This is the testimony for the churches.

"I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let everyone who hears, say, "Come." Let the thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes, take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to this says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Assembly may stand

GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

Jesus said in a prayer, "I ask not only on behalf of these disciples, but also on behalf of all those who will come to believe in me one day through their word. May they be one. You and I are One, Father. May they be in us, so others believe that you have sent me.

"The glory that you gave me, I passed along to them. May they be one, as we are one. May we all be as One. May the world know you love them, even as you have loved me. May they also be with me. May they see my glory that you gave out of love long ago.

"Holy Father, the world doesn't see you, but I do. My disciples know that you sent me. I told them your name. I will make that name known. Then your love, and my presence, will be in them."

Sit

MESSAGE - TREMORS

HYMN OF THE DAY – ONE BREAD, ONE BODY – ELW

496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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Assembly may stand

APOSTLES' CREED – ELW 105

(ALL)

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 buried.
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, and was
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response

(Liturgist) Hear us, O God.

(All) Your mercy is great.

SENDING PRAYER FOR OUR DELEGATES

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Accept these simple gifts, O Lord, and use them to bless our ministry of gatherings, and our ministries in the Merced community, and beyond.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We thank you, O Lord, that you have always been with the church.

You have always guided us, and have led us down good paths.

You have taught us wisely, and have been with us in hard times.

We thank you, O Lord, that you bring us today to this table of grace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

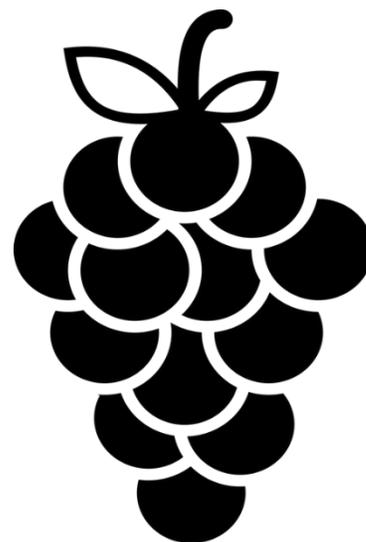
WE EAT AND DRINK

By this eating and drinking, we have remembered our Lord's Passover from death to life.
Let us now proclaim the mystery of faith:

(ALL) - Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.



LORD'S PRAYER – ELW 154

**(ALL) - 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.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lead us in our journeys home, Lord. Help us to feed others as we have been fed here.
Empower us to live a life of faithfulness, even as you are always faithful to us here.
Bring us back once again into your presence, and our Shepherd of the Valley fellowship.
Amen.

BLESSING

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

Assembly May Stand

SENDING SONG – CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS – ELW 855 (VERSES 1, 3, & 5)

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

(ALL) - Thanks be to God.

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