

Seventh Sunday of Easter



May 21, 2023

INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling
Courtney Fetchko/Melvin Goodwyn, Piano 4-Hands

arr Victor Labenske

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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

C: And also with you.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

to Refrain

Verse 2 *Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3 *Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*-Please share a sign of peace with those around you
-Please be seated*

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts, the first chapter...

When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were

gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter, the fourth chapter...

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - please stand

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, 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 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John, the 17th chapter ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. “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. Now they know that everything you have given me

is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 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."

Holy Words, Holy Wisdom. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Lundgren

MESSAGE

Katharyn Wheeler

HYMN OF THE DAY *-Please stand*

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

-Please stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

-A brief silence.

A: God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING *We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world. We invite you to place your donations in the plate as it is passed. Donations can also be made online at stmatthewsva.org/give. Your offerings go toward the mission of the church and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community locally, nationally, and internationally.*

OFFERTORY

I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing
Senior Choir

Helvey

OFFERING SONG *-Please stand*

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain *Congregation:*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (three sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a 'C' time signature. The music concludes with a double bar line and a final cadence.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
 2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
 may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God,
C: in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you
C: And also with you
 P: Lift up your hearts
C: We lift them to the Lord
 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise
 P: It is indeed our work and joy that at all times and places we offer thanks and praise to you O God, through Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of life renewed. And so, this morning we join with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven. We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



P: You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

-Please be seated

All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

LAMB OF GOD



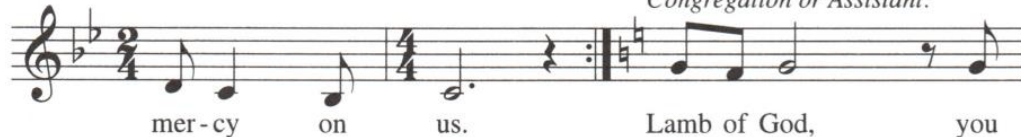
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Now We Join in Celebration



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress



Father, We Thank You

ELW 478



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.
Music: RENDEZ À DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561
Text © Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Go to the World

ACS 991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
 Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

BLESSING

P: The God of all,
 who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
 bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
 to live in the new creation.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

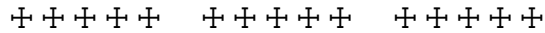
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

arr. Anna Laura Page

*During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.



Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kirsten Laderach kladerach@stmatthewsva.org
Guest Preacher: Katharyn Wheeler, Congregation Member, Student at Luther Seminary,
and Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Service
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren klundgren@stmatthewsva.org
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn organist@stmatthewsva.org
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
Tech Volunteers: Zoey Wise, Rebecca Lucast, Joyce Forbes, Tom Meier
Lector: Darryl Lundgren
Usher: Dave Carr

Church Council Members:

Gaye DeCesare – President	Keith Kuhn – Finance & Stewardship Chair
Gretchen Wilcox – Christian Education Chair	Dick Gullickson – Secretary, Fellowship Chair
Angela Allen – Evangelism Chair	Emily Hess – Day School Chair
Bruce Leiby – Vice President, Property Chair	Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair
Mark Victorson – Social Ministry Chair	Darryl Lundgren – Treasurer
Pat Hartline – Financial Secretary	

Altar flowers for today are given by The Bortner Families,
In celebration of Tom and Gloria Bortner's 40th anniversary...

For more announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org

Happening Today – Sunday School meets after the worship service—Children PreK through 5th Grade meet upstairs in the Blue Room; Confirmation Class, 6-8th Grades, meets upstairs in Rooms 9 and 10. Keith Kuhn will lead Adult Bible Study in the Conference Room.

MAY 21 – The St. Matthew's Book Group will meet at 2:30 to discuss *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks.

MAY 21-27 – Hilda Barg Meal Service Week – We're providing meal service at Hilda Barg! Sign up to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

MAY 27 – We're serving lunch to clients of the Bill Mehr Drop-In Center for the Homeless. Sign up to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

JULY 18, 19, 20 – Vacation Bible School will meet 9-Noon. Registration is now open—see Gretchen Wilcox for more information.

JULY 31-AUGUST 3 – Summer Music Camp will meet 9:30-Noon. Register by June 30th. See Kathy Lundgren for more information.