

## **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:12–26

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

John 17:1–11

### ***Our Lord Jesus Is with Us in the Upper Room of His Church on Earth***

On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus prayed for His Apostles and His Church on earth. “The hour” had come when the Father would glorify His Son by the Cross (John 17:1). Through the shedding of His blood, He would bring forgiveness for the sins of the world, and in His Resurrection and Ascension He would unite all Christians with the Father “that they may be one” with God (John 17:11). He manifested His Name to the Apostles and gave them the words of the Father to speak in His Name. The apostolic witness of His Cross and Resurrection (Acts 1:21–22) gathers disciples together “with one accord” into the one Body of Christ (Acts 1:14). “Devoting themselves to prayer,” they wait upon the Lord in “the upper room” (Acts 1:13–14), the place of His Holy Supper. Strengthened by the Gospel, Christians bear the Cross of Christ in patience and peace, rejoicing to share in His suffering, in order that they “may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:13).

### ***Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:***

May 28: The Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 25:1-15 (v.4); Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

# The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

## INTROIT

*Psalm 100:1-5; Antiphon: Psalm 101:1*

*I will sing of steadfast love and justice;*

to you, O LORD, I will make music.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

*For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,*

and his faithfulness to all generations.

**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.**

*I will sing of steadfast love and justice;*

to you, O LORD, I will make music.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *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]♪*

## GRADUAL

*adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

*Christ has risen from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,

*He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;*

he has put all things under his feet.

## RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy

**C** hear our prayer.

## Acts 1:12-26 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> "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. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup> 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.) <sup>20</sup> "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.'"

<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out

among us, <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly  
and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### John 17:1-11 (ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have

received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> 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.

