



Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

8:45 AM

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

PRELUDE

"This is the Day of New Beginnings" C. Young

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen

GREETING

P: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,
Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

ANTHEM

"A Scottish Blessing" David Blackwell

Chancel Choir

*Be a light before to lead me;
Be a guiding star above;
Jesu, may I always know thee,
May I always know thy love.*

*Be a light before to lead me;
Be a guiding star above;
Jesu, may I always know thee,
may I always know they love.*

*There is no bird that soars the
mountain,
There is no deer upon the hill,
There is no creature of the forest,
But shall sing thy praises still.*

*Be a kindly shepherd for me,
Keep me safe thru' all my days;*

*Jesu, may I always know thee,
May I always sing thy praise.*

*There is no life that swims the ocean;
There is no creature of the sea;
There is no fish within the river,
But proclaims its praise for thee.*

*As the day falls into evening,
As the night is lit with stars,
At the ending of life's journey
may thy heav'nly peace be ours.*

*Let ev'ry creature in God's kingdom,
Let ev'ry life upon the shore
Sing praise to God, the world's
creator,
Sing praises now and ever more.*

WORD

A Reading from Acts the First Chapter

L: ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus — ¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he

was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

(Acts 1:15-17, 21-26)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

P: A Reading from St. John the Seventeenth Chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

P: ⁶I 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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And 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. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

(John 17:6-19)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: GRADUATE MILESTONE BLESSING

PE: I would like to invite the children forward to help handout towels to the graduates. As you come forward, I want to invite the graduates to step into the aisle closest to them.

Children, as you come up front, please take a towel to someone in an aisle who looks like they are graduating!

After you've handed out a towel, you're invited to gather around the baptismal font or sit in the front pews.

Vivian (at lectern):

This towel can be used for:

Drying dishes. Wiping eyes. Mopping up spills. Coping with sighs. Cleaning stains. Creating good trouble. Holding on when life is too hot to handle. Washing feet. Opening jars. Binding wounds in a world of scars. Don't give it up, or throw it in; this towel is a sign: All our sins are washed away. God takes us by the hand and helps us rise.

PE: Today we invite you, graduates, as you wear this towel around your neck, to affirm the promises made at your baptism and at your 8th grade affirmation of baptism:

(slide)

Do you commit to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, please respond:

Graduates: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(slide)

Keith: Jesus says, “Let your light so shine before others that they will see your good work and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Graduates, as you look around the sanctuary, the people gathered here have been the light of Christ to you, and you have been the light of Christ to them. Take special notice of the people who are younger than you – they may be siblings, your youth group friends, kids you taught at Vacation Bible School, or eaten next to at Feeding the Flock. These young people learn how to live out their baptismal promises by watching their parents and other adults, peers, and especially by watching young adults like each of you.

Now take special notice of those that are older than you – your parents and family, your Sunday School and VBS teachers, your youth group leaders, faithful companions, confirmation teachers, and your pastors, from whom you have learned what it looks like to walk with Jesus and to live a life abiding in God’s love.

We ask now that parents and family members of graduates join your grad in the aisle as the congregation renews its promise as the body of Christ:

(slide)

People of God, do you promise to continue to support and pray for these young adults as they go out into the world?

Congregation: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

(slide)

PE: Parents, you are invited to mark the sign of the cross on your graduate as each blessing is read:

Keith (*handheld mic*): Receive the cross on your forehead, a sign of God's endless love and grace for you.

Grant (*lectern*): Receive the cross on your ears that you may hear the Gospel of Christ, the Word of Life.

Vivian (*lectern*): Receive the cross on your eyes that you may see the light of Christ. May it always light your way.

Grant (*lectern*): Receive the cross on your shoulders that you always know that Jesus invites you to come to him, "all you who are weary and burdened, and he will give you rest."

Keith: Receive the cross on your hand that you may serve all people following the example of Jesus Christ.

PR: Receive the cross on your feet that you may strive for justice and peace in all the earth for the sake of Christ.

PM: Receive the cross on your heart that you may always know it is by grace have been saved through your faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift given freely by God.

PE: I would like to invite the children gathered, as well as those in the pews, to raise your hands in blessing, as we close with a poem by Jan Richardson:

(slide)

“Beloved Is Where We Begin”

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:

Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this
path
before you.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

that come
alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean
themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

I cannot promise
this blessing will free
you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.
Amen

But I can tell you
that on this path

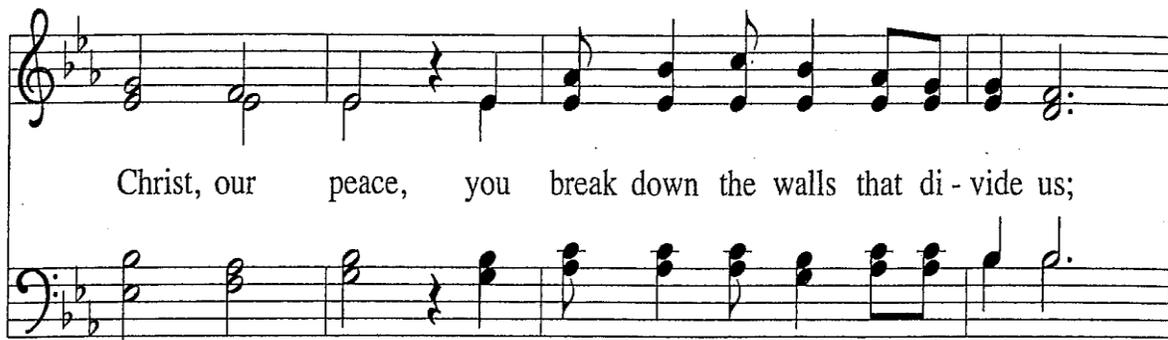
SERMON

Pastor Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman

Please stand as you are able.

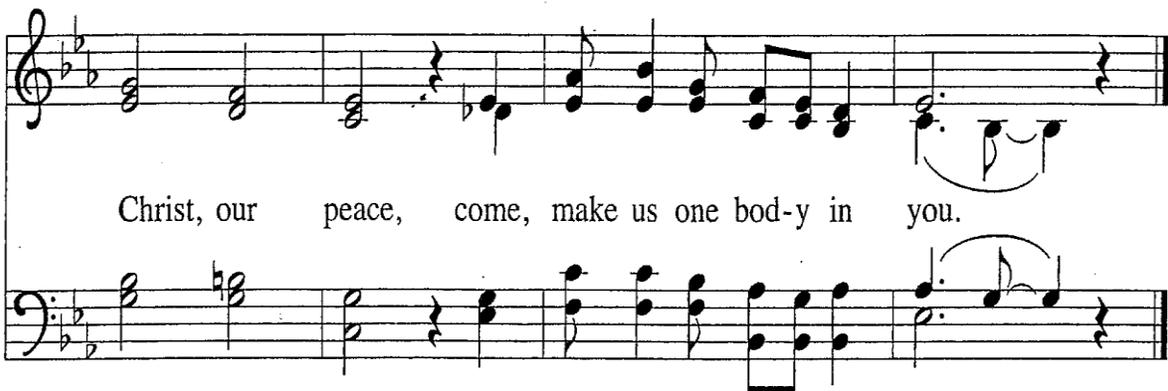
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Our Peace”
Sing Twice



Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and some moving lines. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;"



Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

The second system of musical notation continues the first system. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a vocal line with lyrics. The bass staff has piano accompaniment. The key signature remains two flats. The lyrics are: "Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you."

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence for reflection

P: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need. Accompany those struggling with the effects of COVID-19. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. We pray especially for....

Helgi Bloom
Darrel Brown
Roland Carlson
Jessica Cooper
Jim Darbi
Yvonne Deyle Barth
Dennis Drabek
Nicole Gordon
Ruth Gregg
Gayle Guilfoyle
Mendi Hall
Phyllis Handwerk
Cheryl Heiden
Ryan Heywood
Marv Hilton
Karen Hiskett
Jackie Holscher
Rod Jensen
Wayne Karschner
Marvin Knittel
Lorene Krenke

Lu Krueger
Talia Krumbach
Cathy Livengood
Virgy Lund
Kerry McCormick
Betty McMaster
Pat Meyer
Elizabeth Muller
Rev. Dave Nordstrom
Walter Peden
Brenda Rae Peterson
Robin Shanks
Charlotte Sitorus
David Stryker
Kristy Triplett
Carl Weber
Misty White
Chris & Melissa Su Wright
David B. Wright
Frank Wright

Prayers of Peace and Comfort for:

- Nancy Darling and family on the death of her husband, Jim Darling

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

MEAL OFFERING

"I Want to Walk as a Child in the Light" K. Thomerson

Offering boxes are located by the entrances and in the narthex or you may give online. We will not be passing the plate.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of love,
You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and
send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your
beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was handed over, 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. Let us proclaim the
mystery of faith:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

(Please let the Pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

"A Parent's Heart" D. Foster

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE GRACE

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

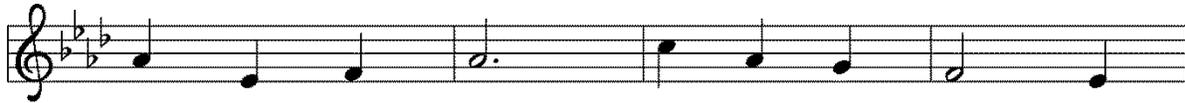
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Wellspring of joy,
Through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy
the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

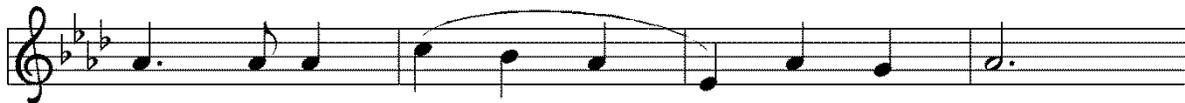
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

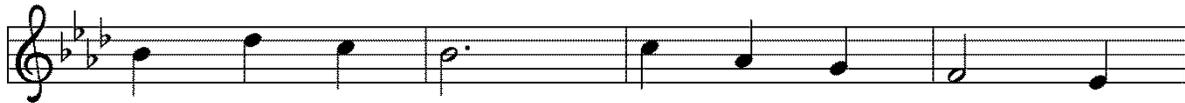
“Earth and All Stars” ELW #731



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



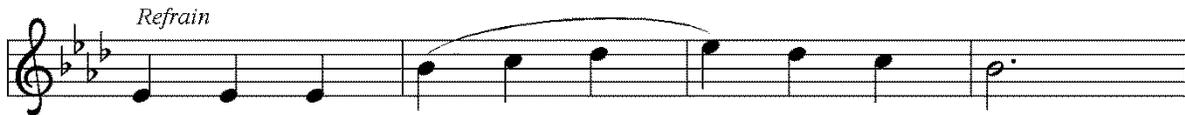
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926, Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987. Text and Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. All Rights Reserved.
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BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“May You Run and Not Be Weary” **Chancel Choir**

*May you run and not be weary.
May your heart be filled with song.
And may the love of God continue
To give you hope and keep you strong.*

*And may you run and not be weary.
May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home.*

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Hymn to Joy” L. van Beethoven



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**Rev. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, Preaching Pastor
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Presiding Pastor
Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Liturgist**

Janet Welch, Organist

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