

The Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 21, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

All Over Again

Jesus, come, oh come into this place. Jesus, come, I want to see Your face.
Jesus, come, I long for Your embrace. I want to fall in love with You all over again.
All over again, I give you my praise, All over again, for all of my days.
All over again, with my heart and hands I raise to say I love You, Lord, all over again.

Jesus, come, oh come into this place. Jesus, come, I want to see Your face.
Jesus, come, I long for Your embrace. I want to fall in love with You all over again.
All over again, I give you my praise, All over again, for all of my days.
All over again, with my heart and hands I raise to say I love You, Lord, all over again.
To say I love You, Lord, all over again.

*"All Over Again" Words and Music by Mark and Charista Zehnder Copyright 1996 Mark Zehnder Publishing Used by permission.
CCLI#2960087*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
People: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.

Pastor: Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
People: And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, confident that He will hear and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not always been proud to bear Your name. At times, we crumble in the face of the trials that come our way. We allow worries and anxieties to crowd out Your caring presence. Keep us in Your name, which You have given us in Baptism, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake.**

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God of glory and Lord of love, You called the Twelve to follow You. When Judas fell, Matthias was called to take His place. In our time, You call pastors to shepherd Your flock. Guide all pastors, by Your Spirit, to walk according to Your will and Your ways; for You are our Savior and Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 1:12-26

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, “‘May another take his place of leadership.’”

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey

the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more, to be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, There is no greater thing,
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life and to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord, so with You to live and never die.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord. Love you Lord.

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Sermon

Rev. John Stern

The Offering

Prayer of Blessing

P You have called us and empowered us for a mission to the whole world. You have gathered us as a church, washed us in grace, united us in faith and given us the Holy Spirit. We are joined to believers around the globe who offer our lives and our resources to be used in the world of Your Kingdom on earth.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: O Jesus, we pray for all who are suffering trials because of their Christian faith. Comfort them and lead them to rejoice as they share in Your sufferings, that Your glory is revealed, because Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Holy Father, we grieve the divisions in our families, communities, world, and especially in Your Church. Keep all Your people in Your name, which You have given in the waters of Baptism, and lead us to the unity we will experience fully with You in Your kingdom, because Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: O Great Physician, bind up the broken hearted and heal those who are suffering in heart, soul, strength, and mind. We pray this day for those who are grieving, and ask You to give them comfort as they mourn. We pray this day for those who are suffering from illnesses, [*especially* . . .], and ask that You heal them according to Your good and gracious will, because Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

The Invitation

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Distribution

Worthy Is the Lamb

Thank You for the cross, Lord;
Thank You for the price You paid;
Bearing all my sin and shame, In love You came,
and gave amazing grace;

Thank You for this love, Lord;
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands;
Washed me in Your cleansing flow, Now all I know
Your forgiveness and embrace.

Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne;
Crown You now with many crowns,
You reign victorious;
High and lifted up, Jesus, Son of God,
The Darling of heaven crucified;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

Thank You for the cross, Lord;
Thank You for the price You paid;
Bearing all my sin and shame, In love You came,
and gave amazing grace;

Thank You for this love, Lord;
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Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne;
Crown You now with many crowns,
You reign victorious;
High and lifted up, Jesus, Son of God,
The Darling of heaven crucified;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb!

"Worthy Is The Lamb" Words and Music by Darlene Zschech Copyright Used by permission. CCLI#2960087

Communion Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith until life everlasting.
Go in His peace.
C: **Amen**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

MAY THE PEACE OF GOD

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

Refrain
And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his Communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.
Refrain x2