

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

The Seventh Sunday of Easter always invites us to read from the great prayer of Jesus in John 17, the prayer in which Jesus prays that the people of the church may be one. And this Sunday in this year also invites us to read about the disciples, men and women, being together in the house in prayer. Join the unity of the church again this Sunday as you pray in *your* house, if it is possible for you, **at 10 am on May 24.**

Alleluia Christ is risen!

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may wish to light a candle near where you pray, perhaps the candle you have lit throughout Easter. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “You Galileans, 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.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at:

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200524/playlist>

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

- ¹Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.
- ²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.
- ³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.
- ⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!
- ⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
- ⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.
- ⁷O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,
- ⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.
- ⁹You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.
- ¹⁰Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.
- ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.
- ³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.
- ³⁴Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
- ³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!

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

¹²Beloved, 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. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴If 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.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that God may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, that very God of all grace, who has called you into eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To God be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John, the seventeenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After 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, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"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. 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Our brothers and sisters in all the world are indeed undergoing suffering now. And, amid that suffering, there are sometimes too many words: complaints; mis-information; self-justifications; accusations. But Jesus Christ has given us the very words of God. And those words will restore, support, strengthen and establish us. They give us life. They will make us one with God and so with all of God's people. Usually, outside of this time of pandemic, the church hears those words of God in the words of forgiveness at the font, in the scriptures read and preached in the assembly, and in the very Body and Blood of Christ given to us together to eat and drink. But this is not a usual time. Out of care for our neighbors and our world, out of concrete love, we stay apart. Yet, amazingly, the very words of God are still given to us: we read and sing them in our homes, like those early Christians devoted to prayer in that Jerusalem house. Our own homes can become a place of the word of God. Our regular meals can be a place of unity in the presence of Christ, as we wait to return to the fuller unity of the Sunday assembly in the church. Here are three of the words we have now: “Resist the roaring lion” who wants to devour you with anger and fear. And “cast all your anxiety on God, for God cares for you.” And “love one another as I have loved you.”

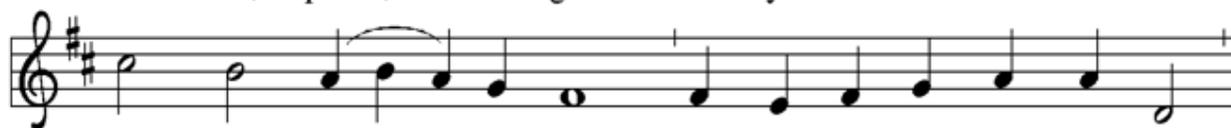
At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Easter 7 sermon. It may be found on Constant Contact, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200524/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200524/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #657 Rise, O Sun of Righteousness



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, we gather in our homes and yet together as one, praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

In this time of troubling separation, we pray to you, triune God, for the unity of your churches. Bind us together around the globe in the truth of your gospel. Make us witnesses of your mysterious might. As you blessed the early disciples for their unfolding ministry, bless Pastor Linman as he joins with us here in Arlington in prayer and service.

A brief silence.

God of unity, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Nurture the life of your creation. Support those who explore the mysteries of your universe. We praise you for Nicholas Copernicus, whom we commemorate today, and for all the scientists who have enriched our understanding of creation. Help all online teachers to instruct our children in the ways of nature.

A brief silence.

God of splendor, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Readying for Memorial Day, we pray for peace around the world. Protect all soldiers, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Shield the vulnerable who live in path of violence. We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan and Syria.

A brief silence.

God of peace, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Come to the aid of all who suffer. We pray for those who are laden with grief, overwhelmed by anxiety, or struggling without medical care. Uphold all health-care workers who attend to coronavirus patients. Comfort all families and friends who cannot embrace their loved ones at the time of death. We give into your care all the sick, especially Don Hanson, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Nathan Linman, Jack Mulloy, and all who need our prayers.

A brief silence.

God of compassion, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Again we pray: give the world a vaccine.

A brief silence.

God of healing, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Grant your oneness to humankind, so marked by isolation and division. Bring concord to families, rival gangs, distraught citizens, racial groupings, and members of our legislatures. Give to each individual a wholeness that is birthed in you. Make us one, as you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one.

A brief silence.

God of wholeness, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

Make us steadfast in the faith, and graciously receive our personal petitions:

A longer time of silence.

God of all grace, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

To know you is to have eternal life. We praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith and who now live in you: *A brief silence.* At the end, bring us with all your saints into your presence.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, hear us:

Your mercy is great.

With bold confidence in your love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God of our past, our present, and our future, we place all for whom we pray into your circle of love, now and forever.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200524/playlist>

HYMN #650

In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.



Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✚ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**



Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 99. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 4:7-11. **Wednesday** (commemoration of John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564) 1 Kings 8:54-65. **Thursday** Psalm 33:12-22.

Friday (commemoration of Jiří Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637) Romans 8:14-17. **Saturday** (Vigil of Pentecost) Romans 8:14-17, 22-27. **Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21 *or* Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 *or* John 7:37-39.