Service of the Word
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 24, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

Overhearing Jesus

At the ascension we, like the disciples in today’s reading in Acts, are left looking at the sky. But in the High Priestly Prayer (John 17), Jesus brings us back to earth. In the prayer he speaks not only from the perspective of the risen and ascended one, but as the Word of God, now made flesh. The prayer anticipates the accomplishments of this Word, which does not return empty (Isa. 55:11), namely in the fulfillment of the “hour” of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. It is as if Jesus has already ascended “to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (John 20:17), and has returned to tell us something vital.

As we overhear Jesus, we learn that God’s character and motive are identical to those of Jesus, who has now, fully and completely, “made God’s name known.” We no longer have to speculate about the nature of God. God’s purposes and love are made known in Jesus. But we also learn about ourselves. Jesus’ prayer frequently mentions the “world” – the world at once hostile to God and God’s anointed, and yet also beloved of God (John 3:16). With Jesus’ commissioning today we have our work to do, to make God known in and through Christ Jesus. The Living One works through us as “words within the world,” who no longer seek meaning among the dead, but are empowered to make known the vibrant, new reality of Easter.
You may wish to prepare for worship by lighting a candle and/or placing a small bowl of water nearby as a remembrance for baptism.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude
This is the Feast, arr. Thomas Keesecker

Thanksgiving for Baptism

During the thanksgiving, you may wish to gesture to remember your baptism:
A light splash of water,
use water to trace a cross on your forehead,
make a sign of the cross across your body.

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

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water –
for the oceans that surround the earth
for the rivers that nurture the land,
for the Des Plaines River, Salt Creek, Silver Lake, Lake Michigan
that you provide for our community
we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth –
we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth:

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water –
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,
for the floods that restore the fields,
for the dew that freshens dry places –
we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:
we honor you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, Gracious God, for the waters of baptism –
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,
for the water that illumines us with your Word,
for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit,
for the water that bathes the church universal –
the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals,
Evangelicals, independents –
we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:
we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.
We worship you, O God, Father Son ☩ and Holy Spirit,
Almighty, merciful and gracious.
Well of forgiveness you revive us,
Cup of cold water, you refresh us,
Pool of rebirth, you renew us.
To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:
To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever.

Amen.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!, ELW 393, verses 1, 2 and 5
Sung by Kyle Cartwright and Adam Cartwright

The assembly joins in singing:

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
   New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Christ, by a road before untrod,
   ascends unto the throne of God.
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band
   upon the Mount of Olives stand,
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   and with his faithful foll'wers see
   their Lord ascend in majesty.
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
   all praise to you let earth accord:
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   You are, while endless ages run,
   with Father and with Spirit one.
   Alleluia! Alleluia!
   Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Music: in public domain.
Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

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.

Word

Children’s Message

Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Today’s reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord’s conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore dominion to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine 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, “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.”

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Gospel Acclamation

As we welcome the gospel, we sing:

Gospel

John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1After Jesus had spoken these words, 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. 11“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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Richard Johnson
Prayers of Intercession

As we begin our prayers, together, we join in singing:

After each petition, the assembly responds:

God of unity, hear us: Your mercy is great.

We continue to hold in prayer:

Our bishops, Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA Churchwide staff;
  Yehiel Curry, and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod staff
Missionaries throughout the world especially Pr. Mawien Ariik and
  Pr. Wal Luot Reat in South Sudan; and Pr. Alex LaChapelle in Nairobi,
  whom we support
Our ecumenical brothers and sisters in the countries of
  Angola, Mozambique
Our community of faith, especially our pastors and staff, leadership and volunteers.

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.
Sending

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.

Sending Song

You Are Mine, ELW 581
Sung by Kyle Cartwright and Adam Cartwright

The assembly joins in singing:

\textbf{You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be shad-ows of the night, I will be your light. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain. Stand still and know I am here. To refrain

\textbf{Come and rest in me. To refrain

\textbf{all will know my name. To refrain

\textbf{up, now walk and live! To refrain

\textbf{I will lift you from all your fear.}

\textbf{am the peace the world can-not give.}

\textbf{(2) In the heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.}

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*As our service concludes, we share the peace with each other near and far.*

Postlude

*Toccata on “Lasst uns erfreuen,” Charles Callahan*

**Special thanks to our leaders this morning:**
The Rev. Richard Johnson
Michael Busbey, pastoral intern
Anne Krentz Organ, director of music ministries
Ethan Mellema, reader and intercessor
Kyle Cartright and Adam Cartwright, soloists

**Acknowledgements**


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