

He Lives to Give Me Eager Expectation of Glory  
Seventh Sunday of Easter



May 21, 2023



**CHRIST** Lutheran Church

*"Our hope in Jesus is an anchor for the soul."* Hebrews 6:19

500 Park Street | West Salem, WI 54669 | 608-786-1250

**Pastor**

*Pastor Frelitz*

**Organist**

*Sunday: Amy Cook*

*Monday: Amy Cook*

**Usher Teams**

*Sunday 8AM: Team D*

■ *Sunday 10:30AM: Team M*

■ *Monday 6:30PM: Miller*

# Mission Statement

With the help of the Triune God, our mission is to gladly nurture the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation, to train our children in the knowledge of the Lord, to reach out to others with the saving message of Jesus' love and forgiveness.

**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

## **SERIES THEME: HE LIVES**

Life is full of either/or moments where you face an unavoidable choice between two alternatives. Some of those moments are relatively insignificant. Either I have the chicken, or I have the fish. Other times, they shape the course of your life. Either I accept this new job offer, or I keep my current job for the remainder of my career. Either I accept his marriage proposal, or.... Some either/or moments are bigger than others.

Here is the biggest either/or of them all. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. One might ask, "How does that either/or affect me?" Because Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and Savior from sin. He said the proof is that he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things ... be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). Thus, if Jesus remains dead, he is both failure and fraud. However, if Jesus rose from the dead, he proves he is who he claimed to be—the Messiah. And he did what he came to do—save us.

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. That means, either Jesus is a complete waste of your time, or he is your only hope for salvation. If Jesus is still dead, it is completely logical that you should want nothing to do with him. If Jesus rose, it is only logical that he becomes the center and greatest priority of your life. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. This season of Easter is a 50-day-long celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered that either/or for us. We believe this life-changing truth. Christ is risen! He lives! Throughout this season, we explore what that means.

## **THEME OF THE DAY: HE LIVES TO GIVE ME EAGER EXPECTATION OF GLORY**

The Church waits. The Church in Jerusalem waited for ten days between Christ's ascension and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. The Church today waits through the millennia between Pentecost and Christ's second coming. We are waiting for the gifts that Jesus promised. We live in eager expectation of glory!

That glory is not dimmed by early suffering. Rather, our current sufferings only remind us of the glory that awaits us. We are simply following in Christ's footsteps. First comes the cross, and then comes the crown. Knowing what is coming lets us view our current troubles as light and momentary. They cannot mute the joy of living in eager expectation of glory.

While we wait in the time between Christ's ascension and return, we live knowing that we will suffer persecution for our faith in Christ, but God will work it for glory.

# THE SERVICE (SETTING ONE) PG. 154

**597 Now Thank We All Our God**

CW 597

*Stand*

**Invocation**

**Confession & Absolution**

CW 154

**Lord Have Mercy & Glory Be to God on High**

CW 157

## The Word

**Prayer of the Day**

*Be seated*

**First Reading**

Acts 1:12–26

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

<sup>13</sup> When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days, when the group there numbered about 120 people, Peter stood up among the brothers and said, <sup>16</sup> "Gentlemen, brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David about Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Judas was counted as one of us and was given a share in this ministry.

<sup>18</sup> "Now this man acquired a field with what he was paid for his wicked act. When he fell headfirst, his middle burst open, and all his intestines spilled

out. <sup>19</sup>This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, and so in their own language that field was called Akeldema, which means Field of Blood. <sup>20</sup>Indeed, it is written in the book of Psalms: May his residence be deserted. Let there be no one dwelling in it. And, let someone else take his position.

<sup>21</sup>“Therefore it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us during the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from his baptism by John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

<sup>23</sup>They proposed two: Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”

<sup>26</sup>Then they assigned lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias. So he was counted with the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **124A Our Help Is in the Name of the LORD**

*Psalm 124A*

### **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 4:12–17; 5:6–11*

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

<sup>14</sup>If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God?

<sup>6</sup>Therefore humble yourselves under God’s powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.

<sup>10</sup> After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:18



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

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## Gospel

John 17:1–11a

<sup>17:1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he may give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. <sup>4</sup> I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the

words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

<sup>9</sup>“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **446 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense**

CW 446

*Children are invited to come forward during the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse for a children's message*

### **Sermon: 1 Peter 5:6-11**

#### **Firm in the Faith**

##### **Sermon Study Guide**

- 1. Where is the only place where a firm faith is found? How do we go about having that firm faith in our lives?**
- 2. The Devil is our adversary. What is he looking to do to us? What is that going to look like as we live our lives here on earth?**
- 3. We will never have hope if all we long for is this life. Where do our true strength and hope come from?**

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offering**

*Please use this opportunity to fill in the Friendship Register. Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

## **721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

CW 721

*Stand*

## **Prayer**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

## **876 Fight the Good Fight**

CW 876

## Acknowledgments

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Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church