

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Conversation

May 16, 2021



AS WE GATHER: A classic hymn begins “In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me.” The words remind us that we can come to Jesus asking for prayer because indeed our Lord is always praying for us. John encourages us by telling us that “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). We can be confident that our prayers by which we bring our concerns to our Lord become part of His praying. We can come to Him with assurance that He prays for our protection and our unity at all times.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

[LSB 904]



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

God's Kids Message and Song

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love." v. 1, 2, 4

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand

And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Verse 4

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

CCLI Song # 26997

Peter Scholtes

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 6:9; 54:1–2; 102:1–2

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD;

People: **let my cry come to You!**

Pastor: Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress!

People: **Incline Your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!**

Pastor: O God, save me, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might.

People: **O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

Pastor: The LORD has heard my plea;

People: **the LORD accepts my prayer.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins to Him, praying for His gracious forgiveness.

[Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.]

People: **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put You first. We have used Your holy name in ways that do not honor You and have not been constant in prayer and devotion. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty with others at all times. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have coveted that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 27:1a, 4–5, 10, 14; antiphon: v. 7*

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell
in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty
of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he
will lift me high upon a rock. For my father and my mother have forsaken

me, but the LORD will take me in. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

People: **Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
[LSB 790 st. 1, 4, 5]

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
 Let all who hear
 Now to His temple draw near,
 Joining in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
 Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
 Ponder anew
 What the Almighty can do
 As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
 Let the Amen
 Sound from His people again;
 Gladly forever adore Him!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Risen and ascended Lord, You now pray for us at the throne of the Father. Keep all those whom You love in Your name, O Lord, that they may be one even as You and the Father are one; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 1:12–26* (Matthias is chosen to replace Judas Iscariot among the disciples.)

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'

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 men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put

forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show 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 numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 1*

Pastor: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

People: ***but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.***

Pastor: *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

People: ***The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.***

Pastor: *Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;*

People: **for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE *1 John 5:9–15* (The testimony about the Son of God)

⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for

this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 14:18*

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 17:11b–19* (Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has

hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM

The First Article

Pastor: We are reminded by Scripture that our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Son of God, Eternal Savior” [LSB 842]



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

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SERMON “What Is Truth” – John 17:11b-19

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, beseeching Him for the needs of ourselves and others.

Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the Church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" [LSB 651 st. 1]

1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Pastor: We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" [LSB 651 st. 2]

2 Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.

Pastor: We pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort, [*especially . . .*]. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" [LSB 651 st. 3]

3 I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit would guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" [LSB 651 st. 4]

4 For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.

Pastor: With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

(Additional petitions may follow.)

After each petitions:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" [LSB 651 st. 5]

5 Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

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Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked, grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL HYMN SEQUENCE

Pastor: The Seventh Sunday of Easter is an “in between” time, being between the departure from this earth of Jesus on the day of His ascension into heaven and the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost yet to come. The disciples had been told to return to Jerusalem to wait for the change brought by the Spirit that would come—and that is what they did.

There are times in our lives when we are waiting for the change from this earthly life to our final destination in heaven to come. We live day-to-day and day by day. That faith-filled kind of living is reflected in the hymn “Day by Day,” written by Swedish lyricist Carolina Sandell Berg in the 1800s and translated from Swedish into English by Robert Leaf. The text of “Day by Day” was set to music by composer Oskar Ahnfelt in Sweden. We sing the first stanza.

HYMN “Day by Day” [St. 1: OAR 278; see *Music Index*]

Day by day, Your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, You send me
Draw me nearer to my heav’nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where, at last, I’ll find eternal rest.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005.
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Pastor:

As the disciples joined with the faithful women including Mary, the mother of our Lord, in the Upper Room for prayer, they may well have encouraged one another by the remembering of Jesus' words of hope and promise. He had said: "In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself that where I am you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Those gathered in that Upper Room were certain they would see Jesus again. They trusted that He would guide them through life to that great reunion. The sense of confident trust of the Christian is reflected in the second stanza of "Day by Day."

HYMN

"Day by Day" [St. 2: OAR 278; see *Music Index*]

Day by day, I know You will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek Your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in Your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold Your face.

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Pastor:

In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus says: "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). The people of God live in this world confident that the Lord will support them day by day until

that time when they see Him face-to-face. The final stanza of the hymn “Day by Day” echoes that blessed confidence. We sing it together.

HYMN “Day by Day” [St. 3: OAR 278; see *Music Index*]

Oh, what joy to know that You are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that You will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to You in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in Your hand.
Savior, with Your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

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LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no man evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, and love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“I’m But a Stranger Here”

[LSB 748]



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

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