

Easter 7

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)

On this Seventh Sunday of Easter the scripture lessons focus on the task at hand for the newly formed church. The eleven disciples need to find a replacement for the one who betrayed Jesus. This will be the beginning of their apostolic ministry to the world. We are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for his followers before his death; a prayer that asks for the protection of his closest friends as they go out into the world without him at their side. They will not be alone, however. They will soon have the Holy Spirit.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 1:12–26

A Replacement for Judas

The apostles returned to Jerusalem following Jesus’ ascension and began the task of carrying out his commission to them by choosing someone to replace Judas so that their number would once again be twelve, a reflection of the twelve tribes of Israel. Peter cautioned that it should be someone who was a witness to the whole of Jesus’ ministry. Lots were drawn and Matthias was chosen.

Psalm 1

The Righteous Versus the Wicked

Blessed are those who walk in the ways of the Lord and delight in his law. They are like trees planted near water that flourish and grow. On the contrary, those who are wicked are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:9–15

The Testimony of God

John concludes his letter reiterating the very essence of his testimony regarding Jesus. God has given us the assurance that we may approach him and ask for anything according to his will. God is not far off and distant, but approachable and grants us eternal life through Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: John 17:11b–19

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Jesus prayed for his disciples asking his Father to protect them so that they would be one just as he and the Father are one. His fervent prayer was that his followers would have the fullness of his own joy within them and that they would be protected and sanctified as they were sent out into the world which would neither fully understand nor accept them.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
 - Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
 - Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
 - How do you feel when someone says to you, “I’m praying for you!” Is it a good feeling? Or do you hear it differently?
- Imagine that Jesus prayed for his followers, constantly! We know that even now the “Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26–27) There is nothing we are going through that God doesn’t know about. Jesus prayed for unity for his disciples and for all who would come after them and continue God’s work.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	158	---	821	392	154	154
O Love How Deep	88	---	544	322	---	---
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	367	747	909	645	---	---
Father, We Thank You	---	704	652	478	---	---
O Master, Let Me Walk with You	492	---	---	818	229	229
All People That on Earth Do Dwell	245	---	791	883	17	17
Son of God, Eternal Savior	364	---	842	655	---	---
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Forever
(CCLI# 7001228)
Lord, I Need You
(CCLI# 5925687)
He Prays For Me
(CCLI# 5822065)
Same God
(CCLI# 7183537)
Worn
(CCLI# 6397757)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.