

# Easter 7

June 1, 2025

## Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Jesus didn't come to earth as a human being to divide people, one from another. His self-emptying sacrifice on the cross was the antidote to sin and death. As Jesus prepared for the cross of his death, he prayed for the well-being and future unity of his followers. In the New Jerusalem that will exist when he comes again, the picture of togetherness will be signified by a glorious vision of perfection.



### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

#### First Reading: 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 133

#### The Unity of Believers

The psalmist sang a very short hymn about the blessings of dwelling together with others who believe in the Lord. He compared it to the feeling of fine oil that trickles down the face and absorbs into the clothing. In this unity is life forevermore.

#### Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-6 (7-11) 12-20

#### Return of the Lamb

John's vision continued with the image of the return of Christ, who says, "I am coming soon." John was granted a view of the river of life flowing from the throne of God. Nearby was the tree of life that had abundant and varied fruit for nourishment, and whose leaves provided healing. In this vision of the holy city of God there was no darkness or night, only perpetual light.

#### Gospel Reading: John 17:20-26

#### Jesus Prays for Followers to Be One

Jesus prayed to the Father as he prepared himself to leave the disciples. He asked that they would be one as he and the Father were one. Since the disciples would remain in the world, Jesus wanted all good things for them as they continued the mission.

#### 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.
- As disciples of Christ, a big part of our mission in his name is to create unity among believers. That doesn't mean everyone can have their own way. Instead, it simply means that we work together to discern the Spirit. Consider the stereotypes about Christians that are barriers to faith and that keep unbelievers away. How might we change those things? How is having the courage to take on those changes rooted in humility?

### 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 above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and \*\*\* means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

### CONTEMPORARY SONGS

#### Praise Song Titles:

Witness  
(CCLI# 4888660)  
Worship the Lamb  
(CCLI# 6184386)  
He Prays For Me  
(CCLI# 5822065)  
Pray  
(CCLI# 4151823)  
I Will Look Up  
(CCLI# 7011443)

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