



May 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**REFLECTION**

*“John 15 invites us to consider how we stay connected to the vine. It opens us to practices of spiritual horticulture. These practices include intentional abiding in God by prayerful opening to divine energy, cutting out what is inessential or harmful to us, and seeing our intimate connection with the other branches of the vine. In our care for one another, we expand the flow of divine energy flowing in and through us.” ~ Bruce Epperly*

**PRELUDE**

*America the Beautiful & Variations on “America”* arr. Thomas Keesecker

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

It is written, “Christ suffered and died, and rose on the third day.”

**We are witnesses of these things.**

It is written, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins are proclaimed in his name to all nations.”

**We are witnesses of these things.**

Christ told us that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, would come.

**We are witnesses of these things.**

We are told that Christ will come again.

**We are witnesses of these things.**

Christ is coming into our world, into our community, into our lives in a new way.

**We are witnesses of these things. Praise is our response.**

**\*\*HYMN No. 341**

*God, Show Mercy to Us*

THAXTED

O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;  
And cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,  
So that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,  
And unto every people your saving grace be shown.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;  
In every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,  
And on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.  
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.  
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,  
And all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison)*

**Risen Savior, we know the promise of Your return. However, we have failed to notice that You are already at work. We have failed to see Your peace at work when communities come together and make changes to welcome the stranger. We have failed to take note of the signs of hope as we offer sanctuary and refuge for our neighbors in need. We have failed to watch for opportunities that You are giving us to participate in the work of justice happening in community centers, in urban gardens, in peacemaking efforts, in rallies and protests, and in the hands of volunteers in our schools. Instead, sometimes we’ve focused on how hard it is, or the rejection we have faced, instead of seeing the work You are doing despite what the world says. Holy One, You are at work all around us but at times all we do**

**is despair. Help us to shed our doubts and fears and cling to the living hope found in You, our resurrected Savior. It is in Your name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ is at work in our world, in our communities, and in you. Search your heart, and find the goodness, the love, the life that is there. You are forgiven. You are loved.

**Go and share the good news and roll up your sleeves; for if you have breath, God still has something for you to do. Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN No. 331, St. 2 & 4**     *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*     NATIONAL HYMN

Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:  
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.,jkl

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Children in kindergarten – 7<sup>th</sup> grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School*

**FIRST LESSON**     *1 John 3:16-24*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**     *Find Us Faithful*     Jon Mohr

**GOSPEL LESSON**     *John 15:1-8*

**SERMON**     *Love in Action and Truth*     Rev. William Schram

**\*\*HYMN No. 332**     *The Right Hand of God*     LA MANO DE DIOS

The right hand of God is writing in our land,  
Writing with power and with love;  
Our conflicts and our fears, our triumphs and our tears,  
Are recorded by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is pointing in our land,  
Pointing the way we must go;  
So clouded is the way, so easily we stray,  
But we're guided by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is striking in our land,  
Striking out at envy, hate, and greed.  
Our selfishness and lust, our pride and deeds unjust,  
Are destroyed by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is healing in our land,  
Healing broken bodies, minds, and would;  
So wondrous is its touch with love that means so much,  
When we're healed by the right hand of God.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**MEMORIAL DAY LITANY**

God of love, peace, and justice, it is your will for the world that we may live together in peace. You have promised through the prophet Isaiah that one day the swords will be beaten into plowshares. Yet we live in a broken world, and there are times that war seems inevitable. Let us recognize with humility and sadness the tragic loss of life that comes in war. Even so, as we

gather here free from persecution, we may give thanks for those that have served with courage and honor.

**We remember and honor those whose lives were given in service to us:**

The 184,000 who served in the Revolutionary War and the 4,435 who died in that service.

**The 3,500,000 who served in the Civil War and the 530,000 who died in that service**

The 306,760 who served in the Spanish-American War and the 2,446 who died in that service.

**The 4,743,826 who served in World War One and the 116,708 who died in that service.**

The 16,353,659 who served in World War Two and the 407,316 who died in that service.

**The 5,764,143 who served in the Korean War and the 33,651 who died in that service.**

The 8,744,000 who served in the Vietnam War and the 58,168 who died in that service.

**The 467,539 who served in the Persian Gulf War and the 268 who died in that service.**

The 1,680,000 who served and are serving in the Global War on Terror and the 7008 who have died in that service.

**God, we praise you for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. We ask that you comfort those that still feel the pain of their loss. Keep us mindful that you have promised to comfort those that mourn. God, we praise you for granting us these freedoms. Let us honor those who have served by working for peace. Let us never forget those that have served and let us never let go of your promise of peace. Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### **\*\*HYMN No. 354**

##### *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

BATTLE HYMN

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.

God's truth is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat  
And is sifting out all human hearts before the judgment seat;  
O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!

While God is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,

While God is marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah!  
Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

#### **\*\*BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**

##### *Festival March*

Michael Burkhardt

**\*\*Those who are able may stand.**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Micki Hardenberg, Cantor & Soloist

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



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