

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

Morning Prayer

Hybrid



<https://i.swncdn.com/media/800w/godtube/resource/popular-hymns/image/for-the-beauty-of-the-earth.jpg>

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

749 Hartford Avenue, White River Junction, VT 05001

Text written in bold in this bulletin is to be spoken or sung by all.

A period of silence follows

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement *please stand as you are able*

We acknowledge that the place on which we worship this morning is the unceded land of the Abenaki people. We are grateful for their stewardship of the earth and thankful for their example of creation care. We also acknowledge the tragic history lived out among our peoples and hope that as we share these neighborhoods we may live into greater justice and understanding.

Let us pray.

A Collect for Diversity

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord¹. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

All **Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Officiant Christ is alive in our hearts.

All **The God who is loved dwells in us. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity and Diversity

All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;**

¹ 1979 Book of Common Prayer. *Collect For the Diversity of Races and Cultures*

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 214 *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

The Collect of the Day

Officiant God be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray together.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Readings

The First Reading *Acts 1:15-17, 21-26* *NRSV*

A reading from the book of Acts

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas

turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

A period of silence follows

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence follows

The Psalm *Psalm 1* *St. Helena's Breviary*

**Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

**Their delight is in the law of the Holy One, *
and they meditate on that law day and night.**

**They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.**

**It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

**Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous;**

**For the Holy One knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

The Second Reading *1 John 5:9-13* *NRSV*

A reading from John's first letter

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not

believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

A period of silence follows

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence follows

Hymn 416 *For the Beauty of the Earth (sung to 288)*

The Third Reading *John 17:6-19* *NRSV*

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not

belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

A period of silence follows

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence follows

Homily

A period of silence follows

Profession of Faith²

Presider Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

**We believe in God the Creator,
infinite in wisdom, power and love,
whose mercy is over all that is,
and whose will is ever directed to creation’s good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and born of a woman,
the gift of the Creator’s unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin
and death.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence

² Profession of Faith provided by the Rt. Rev. Stew Wood. Source unknown.

**in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the
truth of Christ
and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself in
the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Savior
to the end that the kingdom of God may come
upon the earth. Amen.**

Prayers of the People³

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together,
Jesus, guide us in your way.

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of every country might live in unity and peace. We pray together,
Jesus, guide us in your way.

³ THE WAY OF LOVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Composed by the Reverend Allison English, Calvary Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/wol_prayers_of_the_people_final.pdf

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together, Jesus, **guide us in your way.**

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in the Upper Valley Community, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, _____ that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, _____, rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into live as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace *We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you
All **And also with you.**

Offertory Music *The offering is gathered*

Offertory Hymn *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

The offering is brought forward and placed on the altar

A General Thanksgiving

BCP Page 836

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in

this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Blessing⁴ and Dismissal

Officiant

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with us always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 376 *Joyful, Joyful we Adore Thee*

Announcements

Postlude

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ! Alleluia!
 Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

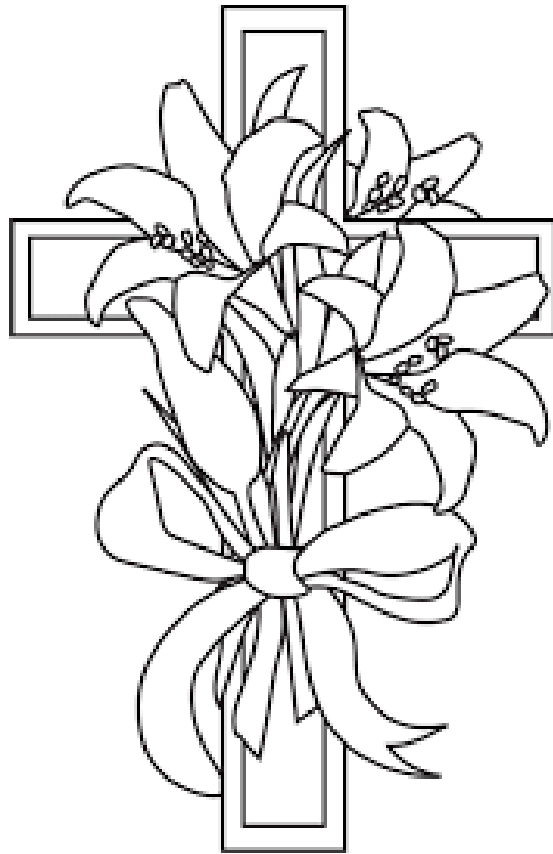
The Worship is over. Now the Service begins.

Coffee and fellowship follows in Parish Hall

⁴ New Zealand Prayer Book <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/525.html>

St. Paul's Mission Statement – 2021-2022

Walking in Jesus' way of love we open ourselves to God's transforming work, that with our neighbors we might embody God's care for all, especially the poor, oppressed and marginalized, and thus foster Beloved Community and bring healing to an ailing world.



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed – Alleluia!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

749 Hartford Avenue, White River Junction, VT 05001

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont

The Rev. Scott B. Neal, Priest

Jeanne Chambers, Pianist

Bev Barton, Senior Warden

Jane Carroll, Junior Warden

Parish Office, 802-295-5415

Visit our Website

stpaulsvt@gmail.com

www.stpaulswrj.org



