

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Conversation

Our Praying Savior

May 16, 2021



AS WE GATHER

Some of the most memorable portraits of Jesus shared with us by the Gospel writers depict times when He prayed. We remember Him teaching the disciples to pray when He was on the mountain, sharing the heart of His teaching. We have the powerful portrait of Him praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night He was betrayed. And in John's Gospel is recorded what is known as the High Priestly Prayer of our Lord. Jesus prayed for His people during His earthly ministry; He continues that praying for us. In his first epistle, John writes that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). There is holy conversation in heaven just as sure as there is holy conversation on earth when we pray! 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 ✂

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Help us to see your presence burning in the hearts of others; grant that we may be united in a fellowship of love and prayer; You reveal yourself in Jesus, your Beloved Child who gives us a glimpse your glory and invites us to share in the unity of all that is Holy: the holiness that is You, your creation, your people, united in the Spirit that breaks through all boundaries of fear and injustice. Meet us here today, O Unity,

and teach us to be one: One in love for each other One in understanding with all who find in Jesus the Way to You. One in peace with all who find other paths to your Truth. Give us the courage to pick up our cross and respond to the needs of the world, give us the stamina to follow you, to be your hands and heart in the world; enable us to witness to your grace and mercy. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, whose fervent prayer was ever: "May they all be one." Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:

Out of God's love and concern, we are reminded of the words of Scripture, "A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). As we remember the righteousness of Christ put in us by the Holy Spirit with Baptism, while preparing to receive Him in Holy Communion, we ask ourselves: "Do I recognize as a baptized believer that I sin and do not live perfectly as demanded by God?" "Do I believe and trust Jesus as my only Savior who died and rose from death, rescuing me from God's judgement for all sin?" "Do I desire growing in Faith and obedience to God's will by the power of the Holy Spirit?" "Do I recognize that we are strengthened by the real presence of Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?" If you believe and confess with us this true Faith, you are WELCOME to the Table of the Lord.....

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE: Clap your hands! Shout for joy! Our Lord reigns on the throne of glory! Welcome Members of Bethel! God gathers us in to give us the words to proclaim the gospel. Christ calls us to share in serving all creation. The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy. We pray that you will experience the fullness of God's grace and truth today, for that is the mission of our church. We want to honor God and touch lives by Living and Proclaiming the Grace and Truth of Jesus Christ. This is what God did through Jesus, and what He wants to do through His followers. Therefore, we pray that today your life will be enriched as you experience and express God's grace and truth.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

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

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.

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.

HYMN "Somebody Prayed For Me" TFBF 246 Sts. 1-4

1 Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind, took some time to pray for me. I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.

2 My mother prayed for me, had me on her mind, took some time to pray for me. I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed for me.

3 My father prayed for me, had me on his mind, took some time to pray for me. I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed for me.

4 My Jesus prayed for me, had me on His mind, took some time to pray for me. I'm so glad He prayed, I'm so glad He prayed, I'm so glad He prayed for me.

✘ WORD ✘

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.)

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Leader: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

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

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

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(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering to The Lord)

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

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.

MUSIC "There Is A Sweet, Sweet Spirit In This Place" [TFBF 102]

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God. You call us to be Your people and invite us to bring our cares to You in prayer. You did so love the world that You sent Your only Son to be our Redeemer. By His sacrificial life and death and glorious resurrection, He has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Pour upon us now the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord with true devotion in this sacred fellowship of Your pilgrim people. Grant us a foretaste of the feast to come, heavenly Father, that with increased faith we joyfully await a blessed eternity in Your glorious presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy” (TLH 242)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Day and night, we join to praise Your love and majesty. You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous. God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.**

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