

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Bonnie Mecaughey

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
**and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.**

—Psalm 95:6-7, NIV



Invocation

Bonnie Mecaughey

Spirit divine, inspire our prayer
and make our hearts your home.
Descend with all your gracious power;
come, Holy Spirit, come!
Come as the light, reveal our need,
and lead us on paths of life.
Come as the fire, cleanse our hearts with purifying flame;
let our whole life be an offering to our Redeemer's name.
Come as the dove, spread your wings of peaceful love;
and let your church on earth become as your church above.
Spirit divine, make this lost world your home.
Come, Holy Spirit, come! **Amen.**

—based on a hymn by Andrew Reed (1829)



Opening Song 97

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Bonnie Mecaughey

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 14:15-17, 21, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Bonnie Mecaughey

Come, Holy Spirit! Rain upon our dry and dusty lives. Wash away our sin and heal our wounded spirits. Kindle within us the fire of your love to burn away our apathy. With your warmth bend our rigidity and guide our wandering feet. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death. And if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit, who lives in us.

—from Romans 8:1-2, 11, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

🕯 Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

—from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

Offering

Offertory

*Gavotte
John Steinginga (Oboe)*

Bach

🕯 Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you. You fill us with good things. Our hearts and lives overflow with your abundance. With thanksgiving, we bring to you our time, talents, and tithes. Use these gifts that you have given us to feed others as we have been fed, to serve others as we have been served, and to bless others as we have been blessed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Preparation Song

Dayspring

Verse 1

*Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true the only light,
Son of righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high be near,
Day star in my heart appear.*

Verse 2

*Dark and cheerless is the morn,
were it ever without Thee Joyless in the day's return,
til thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.*

Verse 3

*Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief,
Fill me radiancy divine,
scatter all my un belief.
More and more thy self display,
shining to the perfect day.*

Proclaiming **God speaks to us through His Word**

Children's Sermon

The Fruit of the Spirit

Dan Baker

Illumination Hymn 247

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:13-26

¹³ For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

¹⁶ I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to

each other, so that you don't do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Sermon *"Living in the Spirit"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn of Response 249** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Profession of Faith**

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Song** *Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death*

Verse 1
What is our hope in life and death

*Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand*

*Chorus
O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death*

*Verse 2
What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ*

Chorus

*Verse 3
Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore*

Chorus

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**