A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023
11:00 am

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
His Eye is on the Sparrow
The Jubilate Ringers and Tina Christie, flute

Brian Childers

The Welcome and Announcements
This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Introit
Come with a Grateful Heart
Covenant Choir

Bailey & Mayo

The Call To Worship
Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

The Lord, the Most High, is awesome!
God rules over the nations from the holy throne.
God rules over all the earth. Sing praises to our God!

The Prayer of Adoration

God Most High, we glorify your name in all the earth. We praise you for your power and majesty above all earthly powers. We celebrate your holy name, your call to justice, your ways of peace. We bow before you in thanksgiving and humility, grateful that you are reconciling all things in heaven and on earth. Amen.

*The Hymn 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake my soul and sing, of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky, can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole,
that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail through-out eternity.

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we do not always acknowledge his rule in our lives and in all things. We go along with the ways of the world. We fail to give Christ the honor and glory due his name. Forgive us and raise us from sin. Help us to be your faithful people. Help us to follow him into the future he has prepared for us, for the church, for the whole world. . . .

Silent prayer. . . .

Amen
*Assurance of Pardon
Beloved people of God, believe the good news: Christ came to set us free. We are God’s forgiven people, raised to new life, extending grace to all!

*The 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. Amen

*The Peace and Greeting
The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

CNC Announcement
Heather Eland

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD...  

The Prayer for Illumination
The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 47
The Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1: 15-23

The Anthem
I Must Tell Jesus
Molly Ijames, arr.


A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 684
Faith Always Leans Forward
Kim Clayton

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory’s roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God’s great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God’s grace.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon
Faith Always Leans Forward
Kim Clayton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD...

*Affirmation of Faith
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People
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.

Tithes and Offerings Presented

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

GOING FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME

*The Hymn 269

Lead on, O King Eternal!

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest Your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation Your grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease, 
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords’ loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;  
for gladness breaks like morning where’er Your face appears;  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Postlude

Julius André

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Rembisz, beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton  
Liturgists: Bruce Harvey, Eric Snader  
Choirmasters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey  
Organist: Amy Shirk

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