



Sunday, May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Blessing of the Water

From the New Zealand Prayer Book

Reader We thank you God for your love in all creation,
 especially for your gift of water
 to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant
with your people Israel;
through the Red Sea waters
you led them to freedom in the promised land.
In the waters of the Jordan
your Son was baptised by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death
Jesus fulfilled his baptism.
He died to set us free
and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.
It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit
and with fire.

All **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

Celebrant We thank you that through the waters of baptism
you cleanse us,
renew us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant
we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Through your Holy Spirit,
fulfil once more your promises
in this water of rebirth,
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour,
power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!**

Opening Acclamation

From the Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

The Hymnal 1982, #544

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in five numbered stanzas, with the first three stanzas having five lines each and the last two having four lines each. The lyrics are: 1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc - 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per - 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e - 5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more. 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice. 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name. 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest. 5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (d. 1793).

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant 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; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

Kyrie Eleison

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.***

Narrative Lectionary Theme ~ The Christ Hymn

The Gospel

Luke 6:43-45 ~ NRSVUE

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil, for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lectionary Discussion

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your attention? What good news did you hear?

During this time you are invited to share your thoughts, questions, or insights about our readings.

The Nicene Creed

People

We believe –

In the One God:

Source of all,

ruler of all,

maker of heaven and earth:

of all things seen or unseen.

And in one Lord:

Jesus of Nazareth,

Christ the Messiah,

the only-born Word of God;

eternally issued of that of the One:

God of God, light of light, true God of true God;

issued, not made:

the same being as the One;

and through whom all things are made;

That for us mortals

and for our salvation

came down from heaven;

and was made flesh

of the Holy Spirit

and the Virgin Mary;

and became human;

Was also crucified, for our sake,

under the reign of Pontius Pilate:

and suffered, and was buried;

and arose on the third day,
in accordance with the scriptures,
and went back up into heaven;
and sits in power beside the One:
and shall come again, in glory,
to judge those living and dead;
and whose presence shall have no end.
And we believe in the Spirit:
the Holy,
the Lord,
and the lifegiving;
that pours forth of that of the One:
that with One and Word together
we worship and glorify as God;
that speaks in the prophets.
In one holy, universal, and missionary church:
we accept one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;
we await the raising of the dead,
and the life of the age soon to come.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to God. We remember those among us and those we love in our prayers; especially Alayna, Anthony, Billy, Chris, Gregory, Kerry, Marie, Maureen, and Nikki.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said. You are also invited to share your prayers on a prayer card and place it in the offering basket next to the baptismal font. Someone from The Beloved Community will take your card home and pray for you over the coming week.

You are invited to share your prayers aloud or silently in your heart. After each prayer is shared aloud, the following response is said.

This is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

After all prayers have been shared.

Celebrant God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

During this time we will share announcements for The Beloved Community at The Trees and others.

The Offering

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

You are invited to share your gifts, financial or other, with the gathered community. During this time of preparation for the Holy Community, you are also invited to remember your baptism.

Music for Preparation

At the Name of Jesus

The Hymnal 1982, #435



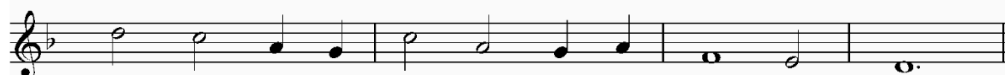
1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
* 5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
* 6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
4 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

The Presentation of Our Offerings to God

Celebrant All things come of Thee O Lord,

People **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

From The Anglican Church of Australia (2009)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant O God, eternal Wisdom,
all you have made is beautiful and good.
We thank you for darkness and light,
for this earth and for our bodies,
for growth and change
and all that lies beyond our knowledge and imagination.

In every generation you befriend your people.
You gave us your holy Law, sent the prophets,
and called us back to the truth whenever we turned away.

You were vindicated in your servant Jesus
who came with forgiveness, feasting, and stories of your grace.
Though we rejected him,
death on a cross could not quench the fire of his love.
You raised him up for us,
the firstborn from the dead,
to build a new community of hope
where all are honoured as Christ's equal friends.
And so we praise you
with Mary, mother of the living Word,
and with all your faithful friends,

as we join the angels' song:

People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant

God of the feast, your household is hungry
for the bread of heaven and the cup of life.
Send your Spirit on us and on our celebration,
so that we may eat at this table and be satisfied
with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

On the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with the people he loved.
He took the bread, gave you thanks,
broke it to share with them, and said:
"Take and eat this: it is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine.
Again he thanked you and told them:
"Drink this, all of you: it is my blood,
shed for you and for many
so that sins may be forgiven.
Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me."

So we delight to remember Jesus:
the faithfulness of his life,
the victory of his cross,
the glory of his resurrection,
the joy of the Holy Spirit poured out for the Church.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant O God, holy Wisdom, merciful and generous,
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
Make us good stewards of creation,
with justice in our hearts,
courage in our actions
and power in our speech
to bear witness to the truth.
Protect us with your glory,
unite your church in loyalty and love,
and bring us home with all your saints to feast with you for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
and in the Spirit's grace,
with heart and soul and mind and strength
we love and worship you alone, O God,
for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Celebrant and People

**Our Lord that is in heaven:
blessed be your name.
Your dominion come:
your will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today our next day's bread:
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And leave us not prey to temptation:
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Taize & Contemplation ~ Surrexit Christus

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Surrexit Christus" (The Lord is Risen Again). The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next two lines. The lyrics are: "O Sur-re-xit Chri-stus, al-le-lu-ia! The Lord is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia! O Can-ta-te Do-mi-no, al-le-lu-ia! Sing out and praise the Lord, al-le-lu-ia!". The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. Dynamics include piano (p) and forte (f). Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line: D, A/C#, Bm, F#m, G, F#m7, F#m6, Em7, A, D, A/C#, Bm, F#m, G, A/G, D/F#, Em7, A, D.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

We thank you, God,
for all the blessings of this table:
for the life-giving story, the living bread
and the wine of new creation.

People **Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words
and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.**

Celebrant God who has called you is faithful.
Go into the world with joy,
forgive generously,
love extravagantly,
live abundantly.

The Blessing

Celebrant Beloved, remember, you are one in whom Christ delights and dwells.
You live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God.
The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither are you.

And the blessing of God almighty,
our most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity,
be among you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer for Our Shared Meal

Deacon Bless the food that you have made, and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia !**

You are invited to join our community for a shared meal of soup/salad and bread immediately following our worship service.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, who supported The Beloved Community with their presence, prayer, and resources for our first year.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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