



May 17, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

AS WE GATHER

“This then is the true art, that in suffering and cross we should look to the Word and the comforting assurance, and trust them, even as He said, ‘In me you shall have peace, but in the world, tribulation’ [cf. John 16:33]. It is as if he were saying: Danger and terror will surely hit you if you accept my Word; but let it come, this will happen to you because of me. So be of good cheer; I will not forsake you, I will be with you and will help you. No matter how great the affliction may be, it will be small and light for you, if you are able to draw such thoughts from the Word of God.” -Martin Luther, *Sermon at Coburg on Cross and Suffering*.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 729, “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“This is the Feast” (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 155)*

All: Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation; Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Final Refrain*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 1:12–26*

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “ ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “ ‘Let another take his office.’ ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to

take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”
²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 68:1–10*

Pastor: God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him!

People: As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

Pastor: But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

People: Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!

Pastor: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

People: God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Pastor: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

People: the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

Pastor: Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished;

People: your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

EPISTLE READING *1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11*

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. ... ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *John 17:1–11*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the seventeenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 657, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

SERMON *"Suffering"*

NICENE CREED

All: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

All: **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. *(Augsburg Confession-Article X)***

PREFACE

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.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 161)*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ ... So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 163)*

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRUBUTION HYMNS

LSB 618, "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 680, "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

LSB 708, "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

THANK THE LORD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 164)*

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 733, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," stanzas 1-3, 6*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).

Family for the Week: Linda Myers
Trinity, Nevada - Rev. Johannes Brann

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Teri Ediger – (Health and healing from surgery)

Rob Springer - (Health and healing from surgery)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Cody (Cheryl Lile's son – health and healing)
Blazi & Jamie (Friends of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing from cancer)
Ardella (health and healing)
Rebecca (Kathy Holly's relative – health and healing from cancer)
Glenda (Teri Ediger's step mother – health and healing)
Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Treaasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson – health and healing)
Linda Lampe (Harold & Gwen's daughter-in-law, for upcoming tests)
Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer-Wolf)
Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)
Donnie Munden – (brother-in-law of Cathy Munden)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Baby Vada (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

WEEK

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| Sunday | May 17th | Happy Half Hour, Bible Study – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with Communion – 10:00 am |
| Monday | May 18th | No Braille |
| Wednesday | May 20th | No Bible Study |
| Thursday | May 21st | Confirmation - 5:30 pm |
| Friday | May 22nd | Pastor's Day Off |

Sunday

May 24th

9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study

9:30 am - Fellowship

10:00 am – Service

Monday

May 25th

No Braille

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: May 24-Jim & Alice Troyke

May

Greeters

05/17: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer

05/24: Cathy Munden & Teri Ediger

05/31: Charlie & Edee Chambers

Ushers

05/17: Harold Lampe

05/24: David Lampe

05/31: Charlie Chambers

Transportation Help Needed: One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors' appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted, if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name in the list and/or if you have any questions.



AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND CELEBRATION - Sunday September 20, 2026, 3:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. There is a flyer in the Narthex.

To Answer Some Questions that have come up: Contributions to Grace can be given to Pastor or in the offering plate in the narthex. Additionally, we have credit card donations available on our web site: <https://GraceLutheranAurora.com/give.php>

Outreach News and Updates

Saturday, June 6th – Aurora City Wide yard sale - If you have items to donate, please make sure they are priced. The lot will be open for members and to the public.

Saturday, October 3rd – Annual Car and Truck Show. Are you crafty? Grace would like to sell your treasures. We will have a small booth, and we would love to sell a couple of your crafts for the benefit of the church.

Questions? See or call Bernie (Phone 417-838-2022)

Little Lambs Day Care, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, wants to thank members of Grace for their generous donation and ingathering from last month. It was a benefit to our kids, teachers and the community.