

Sebastopol United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 16, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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Seasonal Theme:

Alive and out of the grave, the Risen Christ is witnessed in the real world.

Theme for the Day:

The time of Jesus's physical presence comes to a close, and a new age of witnessing discipleship begins.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** texts, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

– *The text is from Psalm 1:1-6 (CEB)*

Pastor: The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice, doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

People: **Instead of doing those things, these persons love the Lord's Instruction, and they recite God's Instruction day and night.**

Pastor: They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don't fade. Whatever they do succeeds.

People: **That's not true for the wicked! They are like dust that the wind blows away.**

Pastor: And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice – neither will sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Unison: **The Lord is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is destroyed. Amen.**

Centering and Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor Lunisi, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Holy Spirit, be with us in our worship today. Draw us ever closer to you, that we may become one. Draw us ever closer to your word, that we may be wise. Draw us ever closer to your world, that we may serve and love as you guide us to do. Give us the will to listen with love to your word, as revealed in the scripture we are about to hear, so

it will nourish our souls, and so that we may be like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit at just the right time, and living lives of never-fading faith. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26** **John 17:6-19**

Message: **CALLS TO SERVE!**

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

(please read along with Pastor Lunisi, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of Holiness, bless these gifts to be nourishment for a world hungry for your peace and grace. Bless us to be nurturers of love for a world hungry for your compassion. Bless us to be one in ministry with you and with one another, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

With the power of God's Holy Spirit, we have been made one in unity and love.

Even as we go our separate ways, we go in unity and love.

We go to serve and love with the power of the Spirit.

We go with the blessing of the community guiding our steps and protecting our paths.

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Scripture Readings – May 16, 2021

first reading – ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

second reading – JOHN 17:6-19

”I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the

world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Thank you for joining us today in worship.

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