

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 21, 2023

Welcome and Greeting

The Efird Family Singers – *“Gather by the River”*

Leader - This is the day that the Lord has made!

Cong. - Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader - Christ the Lord is risen!

Cong. - The stone is rolled away!

Leader - Death has now been vanquished!

Cong. - The stone is rolled away!

Leader – Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary!

Praise God in the firmament of his power!

Cong. – Praise God for His mighty acts; Praise God according to his excellent greatness

Leader – Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Cong. – Praise the Lord!

Leader – Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!

Cong. – For his mercy endures forever!

First Reading Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68 Insert
Second Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Gospel John 17:1-11

The Message

Hymn *“Nothing But The Blood”* Insert

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Offering
Blessing of Offerings

Honoring of Graduates

The Efird Family Singers – *“Farther Along”*

Prayers and The Lord’s Prayer

The Efird Family Singers – *“When He Comes Again”*

The Benediction and Blessing of the Meal

Closing Song *“I’m Just Waitin’ for My Ride”*



Today's Readings

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023

Prayer of the Day

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who

has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; tone 3



Let God arise,
and let God's ene-¹mies be scattered;
let those who ¹hate God flee.

²As smoke is driven away,
so you should drive ¹them away;
as the wax melts before the fire,
so let the wicked perish
at the pres-¹ence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad
and rejoice ¹before God;
let them also be mer-¹ry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the one who ¹rides the clouds;

I AM is that name, rejoice ¹before God!

⁵In your holy habita-¹tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans,
defend-¹er of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home
and bring forth prisoners
¹into freedom;

but the rebels shall live
in ¹desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth
be-¹fore your people,
when you marched
¹through the wilderness,

⁸the earth quaked,
and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God,
the ¹God of Sinai,

at the presence of God,
the ¹God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful ¹rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance
¹when it languished.

continued

¹⁰Your people found their ¹ home in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you have made provision ¹ for the poor.
³²Sing to God, O kingdoms ¹ of the earth;
sing praises ¹ to the Lord.
³³You ride in the heavens, O God,
in the ¹ ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice,
your ¹ mighty voice.

³⁴Ascribe pow-¹ er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is ¹ in the skies.
³⁵How wonderful you are
in your holy places,
O ¹ God of Israel,
giving strength and power
to your people! ¹ Blessed be God!

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5,6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on

him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And 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."

TODAY'S READINGS May 21, 2023

Volume 54, Number 3

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.