



7th Sunday of Easter

17th May 2026



A Sunday to heed Christ's call for Christian unity.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today as we celebrate the 7th Sunday of Easter, known as the Sunday in which we pray for Christian Unity. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
now to His temple draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o're all things
so wondrously reigneth;
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy
here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me
adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen
sound from His people again:
gladly forever adore Him.

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Minister's Welcome

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**
O Lord, open our hearts **that we may worship you.**
Open our lips **that we may declare your praise.**

The Sentence

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

Prayer of Approach

Assistant: Let us pray the prayer of approach,
**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**

Collect of the Day

Minister:

O God, whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom: by your Holy Spirit, hold the Church in unity, and keep it faithful to your word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from Acts chapter 1, verses 6-14.

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

¹²Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

The Psalm of the day is number 68, verses 1-10 then 32-35.

¹May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him.

**²May you blow them away like smoke—
as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God.**

³But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

**⁴Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.**

⁵A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

**⁶God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

⁷When you, God, went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

**⁸the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.**

⁹You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.

**¹⁰Your people settled in it,
and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,
sing praise to the Lord,

**³³to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,
who thunders with mighty voice.**

³⁴Proclaim the power of God,
whose majesty is over Israel,
whose power is in the heavens.

**³⁵You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;
the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.
Praise be to God!**

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **As in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.**

The second reading is from the 1st book of Peter, chapter 5.

⁵1To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **²2**Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **³3**not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **⁴4**And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵5In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble."

⁶6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

⁷7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸8Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **⁹9**Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰10And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **¹¹11**To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹²12With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³13She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. **¹⁴14**Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: O Let the Son of God Enfold You

O, let the Son of God,
enfold you with His Spirit and His love;
let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul:
O, let Him have the things that hold you
and His spirit, like a dove,
will descend upon your life
and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs;
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs;

O come and sing this song with gladness;
as your hearts are filled with joy;
lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name;
O, give Him all your tears, and sadness,
give Him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs;
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs;

(Repeat first verse only again)

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Hearing the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 17 verses 1-11. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ⁶"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon: Br Bill Nicolle will present the message

Offertory Hymn: Jesus Stand Among Us

Jesus, stand among us
at the meeting of our lives,
be our sweet agreement
at the meeting of our eyes;
O Jesus, we love You,
so we gather here,
join our hearts in unity
and take away our fear.

So to You we're gathering
out of each and every land,
Christ the love between us
at the joining of our hands;
O Jesus, we love You,
so we gather here,
join our hearts in unity
and take away our fear.

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(sing through twice)

Giving and Offerings

The Prayer of the Week

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we pray you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to the same place where our Saviour Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:

A prayer for the world ... A prayer for all in authority ... A prayer for the church ...

A prayer for our community, and those on our prayer list ...

Let us pray together,

Thank you, Father for hearing our prayers. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Assistant:

Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table. Let us confess our sins in repentance and faith confident of God's forgiveness.

O God, you have searched us out and known us, and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we have sinned.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength,
we have used our power to dominate and our weakness to manipulate;**

we have evaded responsibility and failed to confront evil;

we have denied dignity to ourselves and to each other, and fallen into despair.

We turn to you, O God; We renounce evil; We choose to be made whole.

Make us whole again, through the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Promise of Forgiveness

God in his goodness have mercy on you. He has washed you clean from all your guilt and purified you from all your sin. God the righteous judge has removed all your sin and made you whiter than snow. Through Christ's atoning death, you have been made the righteousness of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to the life triumphant,
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned,
a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded;
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

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.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Sharing Communion

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us. Give us courage for our pilgrimage and bring us to the joys you promise.

Father, Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion cares for the people of the world; Ours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good; Ours are the hands through which Christ now brings a blessing. So help us, this and every day to keep awake, to live each moment to the full, to look with eyes of compassion and to act with kindness. Amen.

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices

The Blessing

Almighty God, you have redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism. You brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom. May the eternal God give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all ever more.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine:

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, Shine ...

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, Shine ...

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(Chorus repeated one more time)