

Seventh Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024



Welcome to Peace!

Here's some helpful information to guide your time here today.

Enjoy.

We are blessed that you're here with us today. You could have been anywhere today, doing many different things, but you're here worshiping with us and we are so happy! As our guest, we want you to feel at ease. Through worship, song, and message we want you to experience a different kind of peace.

Connect.

Would you do us the honor of letting us know you were here today? This allows us to give thanks for you and know how we can perhaps serve you in the future. We'd also love to be able to give a small token of our thanks. Please fill out the connect card in this service folder or scan this QR code on your phone or follow the link and fill out as much or as little information as you'd like.



Connection Card

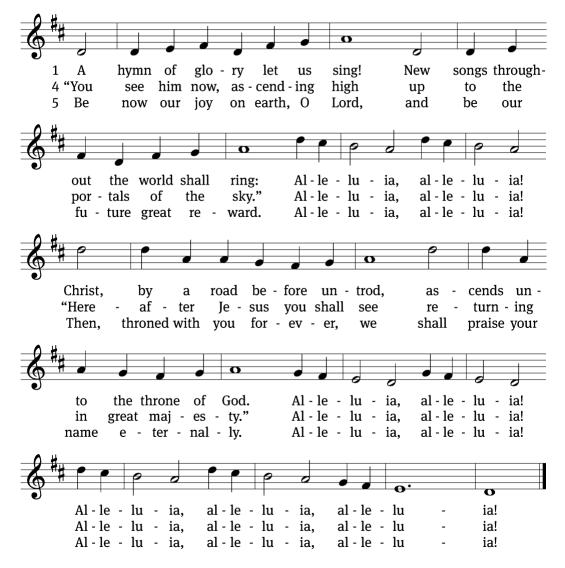
Next Steps.

Going to a new church is a big deal. We're so glad you took that step today. Please take a welcome gift from the table in the entry area. Here are some possible next steps for your journey here at Peace

- Come back an connect with God's Word next week
- Set up a time to chat with Pastor Thiel. 651.276.5286 or revjthiel@gmail.com
- Check out "Starting Point," a way to discover more about Peace and Jesus.



Opening Song: 472 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



We Call Upon Our Merciful God: Responses adapted from Psalms 51 & 103

As God's children, let us now lay our sins before our Heavenly Father so that we can be lifted up with the promise of his mercy, forgiveness and love.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy blot out the stain of my sin. Wash me thoroughly and cleanse me from my sin!

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Silence for meditation and reflection

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 6:3-9; 7:2, 51-60

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ²To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵²Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 17:11b-19

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. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

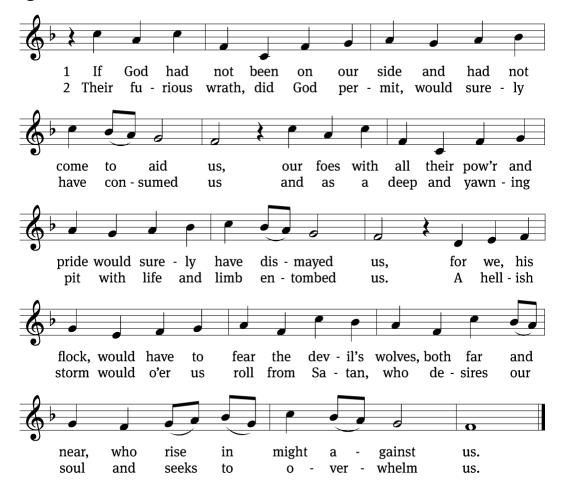
¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward for an Easter message just for them!

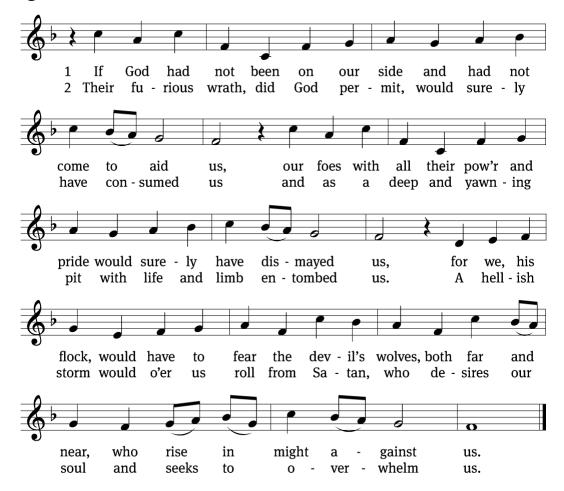
Song: 866 If God Had Not Been on Our Side



Message: You are an overcomer in Christ (part 1)

Based on Acts 6:3-9; 7:2, 51-60

Song: 866 If God Had Not Been on Our Side.



Message: You are an overcomer in Christ

Based on Acts 6:3-9; 7:2, 51-60

Song: 884 Lord, Wen Your Glory I Shall See



Offering

Our Peace family joyfully gives an offering to the one who has given us all. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to give a gift, but please do not feel obligated. We are happy you shared in our joy today!



Give a Gift

Let's Connect

During this time of meditation, would you please fill out a connection card? You may fill out as much as you're comfortable with. It is a blessing to be able to serve you on a more personal level. Thank you!



Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

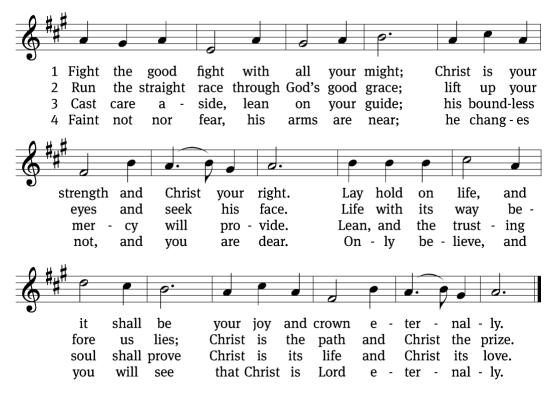
Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sunday School

Children and teachers are excused to begin Sunday School activities.

Closing Praise: 876 Fight the Good Fight





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