

Sing to God, sing in praise
of his name,



extol him who
rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—
his name is the Lord.
—Psalm 68:4

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 21, 2023

ENTRY OF THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“O Canto Do Cisne Negro”

Piano played by Toby Phillips, Violin played by Mariama Alcantera

(O Canto Do Cisne Negro; by H. Villa-Lobos, Public Domain.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 18:1-3a

Buddy Bradford

One: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

All: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

One: My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,

All: My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

One: I call upon the Lord,

All: Who is worthy to be praised.

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#12

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

*(Words & Music: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; by Walter Chalmers Smith,
Public Domain.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we confess that we do not always fulfill the obligations faith in you requires of us. You tell us to give people something to eat. Instead we fill ourselves in over-indulgence, we look with skepticism upon the poor and hungry, we offer meager rations of your abundant grace to this world. Have mercy upon us. Forgive our unwillingness to find true peace in praising you and feeding others in your love. In the name of the One who feeds us fully, Jesus Christ, we make our prayer. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession)

KYRIE ELEISON

#437

Cantor: You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

All: You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

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DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory Be to the Father"

#581

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.**

(Words & Music: Glory Be to the Father; Trad. Liturgical text, Public Domain.)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sean Mann

***SONG**

"Jesus Loves Me!" (vs.1)

#188

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

(Words & Music: Jesus Loves Me!; by Anna Bartlett Warner, Public Domain.)

ANTHEM

*“Grace”
Gabriel’s Sounds*

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Buddy Bradford

Almighty God, bless us with your Holy Spirit as your Word is heard this day, that upon hearing, our lives may more fully reflect the justice, love, and mercy of Jesus Christ. In his risen and glorious name we pray. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Philippians 3:17 – 4:1* *Buddy Bradford*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”

#712

**As those of old their firstfruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,**

**the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring,
the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.**

**A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.**

**In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave

them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

SERMON

“...you give them something to eat.”
Dr. Rev. Bill Pederson

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Caring Place

Susan Harmon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIFTS OF TITHE AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*“To the Glory of God”
Gabriel’s Bells*

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***DOXOLOGY**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Buddy Bradford

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray:

All: Glorious God, our lives have worth, and our bodies matter, because you have created us and bear with us. For your love of humanity, and your concern for our well-being, we give you our thanks. Bless these gifts and our lives that all we are and all we offer give glory to you; in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

#460

**Break thou the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves
beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek thee, Lord.
My spirit pants for thee,
O living Word!**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord,
now unto me,
as thou didst bless the bread
by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall.
And I shall find my peace,
my all in all.**

(Words & Music: Break Thou the Bread of Life; by Mary Ann Lathbury, Public Domain.)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Adagio-Allegro in C Major”

Piano played by Toby Phillips, Violin played by Mariama Alcantera

(Adagio-Allegro in C Major, by W. A. Mozart, Public Domain.)

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