

Lessons for Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

Psalm 133 ~ *Praise for unity in a family through which God gives his blessings.*

Acts 1:12-26 - *At the direction of the Spirit, the group of believers selected Matthias to take Judas' place.*

Revelation 22:1-20 - *Jesus, the First and the Last, receives the redeemed in the heavenly Jerusalem.*

John 17:20-26 - *Jesus prayed that His followers be united in love to give witness to the Father's love.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: All are One by God's Design.

Before His crucifixion Jesus prayed for His disciples and for all who would believe in Him through their words, that we may be one in Him with the Father, united in His love and His glory. In answering that prayer the Holy Spirit guided the little band of believers as they chose Matthias to replace Judas as a witness and apostle. All the redeemed gathered in the heavenly Jerusalem, will be united in Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Ever and the Always. Yes, He is coming soon to welcome us into the complete unity of His glory.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Lord Jesus, as I recall Your ascension into heaven, help me remember that You are always present with Your people, the Church, guiding and leading us by the power of Your Spirit, molding and shaping us together in one family as we deal with one another in love, until You come again on that last great day and receive us to Yourself in heaven. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: God has given us many material gifts, all to be used in ways that express His love to our fellow people, so that they may know our Savior is the Son of God the Father and Lord of love.

OFFERING PRAYER: You love us with eternal love and send us out to share it!
Make us liberal with our love, to risk and boldly dare it!
And just as boldly, let us share Your grace and righteous merit,
That through these gifts we may proclaim a kingdom to inherit. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: It is God's will that all believers be united in expressing His love, which we have known through Jesus' death and resurrection. To live in this kind of love, we have to die to our individual "rights" and our will to assert ourselves over others. We cannot do that! We must depend on the gift of God's reconciling oneness in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. The unity of believers in faith and life promotes the expansion of the Kingdom of God which will finally be seen by all when He who is the First and Last comes in His glory.

Questions to Consider: Is there a difference between a "peacemaker" and "peacekeeper?"

- How comfortable would you be extending a Call for a pastor by the flip of a coin?
- What do we have to give up to be at peace?
- Where will we be able to live in unity with fellow believers?
- Why is "Concordia" an important name in our synod?

Bonus on next page: Hymn text: Peace to You Whose Hearts are Troubled

Peace to You Whose Hearts Are Troubled

*based on the Gospel Lesson for Easter 3. Series B: Luke 24:36-49
tune hyfrydol*

“Peace to you whose hearts are troubled
Now when doubts besiege your mind.
See my hands and feet; Yes, touch me!
Flesh and blood is what you’ll find!”
Jesus spoke these words in greeting
To His friends without delay
In the room where they were hiding
On His resurrection day.

Peace today, O Lord, You bring us
When our troubled hearts would break.
When we sorrow over loved ones
Grant us comfort for Your sake.
Flesh and blood is what You promise
Those who follow in Your way,
Yes! in You we are united
For that resurrection day!

“Everything must be accomplished,
Written of the Christ, the Lord,
In the Psalms and in the Prophets
And by Moses in the Law.
You will give a faithful witness
Of My suffering and My death.
You will preach to all the nations
How I rose again to life.”

Jesus, You have sent Your Spirit,
God the Father’s promised pow’r,
To prepare us for our witness
To the world in this last hour!
Now we pray that for our mission
You will keep us in Your peace;
For our sins grant us remission;
Now let strife and discord cease!

Gilbert Franke -- 2006