

† Pentecost VII †

“Jesus Returns Through His Spirit”



“Why Are You Persecuting Me?”

Acts 9:1-43

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”

Saint Luke Lutheran Church | July 17, 2022

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional Song ✠ *LSB 645 “Built on the Rock”*

- ♫ *Built on the Rock, the Church will stand, even when steeples are falling. Christ builds his Church in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling. Calling the young and old to rest, calling the poor and those distressed, longing for life everlasting.* ♫
- ♫ *Not in a temple made with hands, God the Almighty is dwelling. All through the earth his temple stands, all of creation is filling. For he who dwells in heav'n above, chooses to live with us in love, making our bodies his temple.* ♫
- ♫ *We are God's house of living stones, built for his own habitation. He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, giving us life and salvation. Were we but two his name to tell, yet he would choose with us to dwell, with all his grace and his mercy.* ♫
- ♫ *Grant then oh Lord your will be done, keep your Church faithfully living. Help us to love so all may come, to hear your word now proclaiming: “I love my own, my own love me, you not the world my truth will see. My peace I leave with you always.”* ♫

Pentecost Litany

Jesus has ascended to the Father, ✠ **but he has not left us as orphans.**
He has begun to return as he promised, ✠ **by pouring out his Spirit upon us.**
He dwells among us and all creation ✠ **and he has made us the Body of Christ.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Rule.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♫ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy.* ♫ *Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them*

go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now. ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♪ We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, And we pray that all creation may one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love. ♪ (GC2 728)

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to radically turn everyday away from our old lives to follow you. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind. ♪ (LSB 770)*

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Paul the Apostle

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Paul who, after persecuting and killing Christians, was confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus. He was transformed by Jesus and became a great missionary, bringing the Gospel of Jesus all over the Mediterranean world. In 68 AD he was arrested for the last time and was beheaded under Emperor Nero. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 132*



♪ Lord, remember the hardships of | your people.

** Arise and be with us | in your might.*

Let your priests and saints | shout for joy.

** Do not turn away from your | chosen ones.*

The Lord will abundantly provide | for our needs.

** He will satisfy the poor with | daily bread.*

He will clothe us with | salvation,

** and all his people will | shout for joy. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Isaiah 41:10-14

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 41. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.** We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ Hebrews 10:19-39

The Epistle reading comes from Hebrews 10. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**

We do not live on bread alone, ☩ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Acts 9:1-43

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *We praise our Lord Jesus who comes with healing in his hand. He frees us who are slaves of death, he raises us to stand. He fills us with his love and truth, he gives us all we need. We come to listen now and on his living word to feed.* ♪ (tune: LSB 444)

The holy Gospel comes from Acts 9. ☩ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**

If you have ears to hear, then listen! ☩ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, for the Creator’s Rule is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not living in restful peace with land, animals, and each other, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ☩ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ☩ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ☩ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ☩ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ☩ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ☩ *LSB 611 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”*

♪ *Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus gave his life for me; Died that I might self-deny, Lived that I might never die, As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.* ♪

- ♫ *Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting through eternity. Love that found me--wondrous thought!--Found me when I sought Him not.* ♪
- ♫ *Only Jesus can impart love to heal the wounded heart; Peace that flows from his teachings, Joy that new life with him brings; Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Jesus trod.* ♪
- ♫ *O my Savior, help afford By your Spirit and your Word! When my wayward heart does stray, Keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.* ♪

Waiting on the Creator

- ♫ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.*
- ♫ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.* ♪ (LSB 637)

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father's Rule and he will give you everything you need." *In peace let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven. ✠ Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Give us this day our daily bread. ✠ Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Sonia Gardner, baby Simms, Kathy Polzkill's birthday, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us. ✠ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties and traumas as well as our addictions to Civilization's Way, so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Do not abandon us in temptation, but rescue us from evil. ✠ Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy.* ♪

For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. ✠ Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. ✠ **Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.**
By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Freely you have received from the Lord, freely you must give.”
We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

Pledge of Allegiance

♫ *We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!* ♫ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before men, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His rule will not end.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ☩ **And also with you.** ☩ Lift up your hearts! ☩ **We lift them to the Lord!** ☩ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ☩ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ☩ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ☩ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation! ♫ *Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!* ♫ (LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. Jesus said, ☩ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, in the same way I have loved you.”** ☩ During supper, Jesus then took

the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.”

♫ When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you. ♪ (LSB 384)

Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus’s table, **✠ trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion.** ✠ As we receive the Lord’s gifts, **✠ we commit to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us.** ✠ We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. *♫ Oh come Lord Jesus come and dine and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov’r all the earth. Come now, come now! Our Lord Jesus and bring your healing love to us! ♪ (LSB 357)*

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” Christ Jesus, as we feed on you **✠ we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves **✠ but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, **✠ help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Help us share our whole lives with the church **✠ and care for all your creation, including our own bodies.** ✠ Jesus says, “What do you want me to do for you?” ✠ **Lord, open my eyes so that I can see!** ✠ Jesus says, “Your eyes have been opened, **✠ take up your cross everyday and follow me.” Amen.**

♫ Give us mouths to sing your glory, hearts your teachings to obey, hands that live your love that fills us, feet to walk your holy Way. Holy Spirit, light-creator, may the truth which you do send, fill our lives with loving mercy and trusting peace without end! ♪ (LSB 578)

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Rule. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

Recessional Song ✠ *LSB 570 “Just As I Am”*

♫ Just as I am, without one plea, but that you gave your life for me. I need for you to set me free. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♫ Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♫ Just as I am, poor, empty, blind. So much I need in you to find, sight, purpose, and change to my mind. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come. ♪

♪ *Just as I am, you will receive, will love, forgive, change, and relieve. Now ev'rything behind I leave. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come.* ♪

♪ *Just as I am, I say goodbye, to all things on which I rely, for you call me to come and die. Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come.* ♪

* Faith & Film: “**Last Days in the Desert**” July 25, Aug 1 @ DG

* Faith & Film: “**Silence**” Aug 8, 15 @ DG

* Faith & Film: “**A Hidden Life**” Aug 22, 29 @ DG

* Scripture Study: Genesis 26—36, Wednesdays, 6 pm @ DG

*** Want to do a retreat at the Disciple Garden?**

Contact Samantha @ samantha.timpe@gmail.com or (219) 508-6194

Weekly Calendar July 17 - 24, 2022		
Sun, Jul 17	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Why Are You Persecuting Me?” Acts 9:1-43
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study
Mon, Jul 18		
Wed, Jul 20		
Sat, Jul 23	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Jul 24	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “The Creator Welcomes All” Acts 10:1—11:18
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study

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