



“Witnesses to Hope”

Service Prayers for the 7th Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020

INTRODUCTION

CELEBRATORY PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10

OPENING HYMN

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad Your in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high (REPEAT ALL)

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 68)

We shout for joy
to God who rides upon the clouds!
**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes,
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;
God creates families for those who are alone.

**God leads captives to freedom
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

God goes forth before the people,
marching through the wilderness of their lives,
bringing forth restoration and justice.

**Sing praise to God,
Rider of the ancient skies,
who dwells in holiness.**

Proclaim the power of God!

**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!
You give power and strength to your people.**

Let us worship God!

INVOCATION

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you.
Receive our invitation to dwell with us.
Enfold us in your presence and
fill us again with holy awe and mystery.
We are yours and we claim you as our God. **Amen.**

MEMORIAL HYMN “God of the Ages”

1 God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2 Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3 From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase,
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4 Refresh thy people on our toilsome way,
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE “Memorial Day”

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-11

CENTERING HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

SERMON

“The Last Goodbye”

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE

**Blessed One, you created human beings
for your glory and pleasure.**

**Forgive us for being self-absorbed and
choosing to live solely for ourselves.**

**Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit,
your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours.**

**Grant us courage to share in Christ's sufferings, to be his witnesses, and
to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world. Amen.**

As the Body of Christ,

we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses.

Each of us has our own story of what Jesus' life means for us.

Through our life-stories we can convey hope to the hopeless,
joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil.
Therefore, let us “clothe ourselves in humility,”
sharing the Good News of Christ, that we “may all be one.”
In this God is well pleased.

CALL TO OFFERING

The author of the First Letter to Peter encourages us
to humble ourselves before God
so that we may be exalted by God on “the appointed day.”
Let us share in today’s offering with humble spirits and generous hearts.

OFFERTORY

“Kingdom of God”

Original Song and Lyrics by Tony Legg

DEDICATION

**Ever-present and loving God,
your Word tells us to cast our cares on you because you care for us.
In faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you.
Bless and multiply them to meet the needs,
both hidden and apparent, of your beloved ones.
Inspire each of us to live as Christ’s witnesses,
today and ever more.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

BENEDICTION

Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.
For the God of all grace has called you to eternal glory through Jesus Christ, and will fulfill, restore,
strengthen, and establish you through suffering and struggle. Go forth from this place, empowered by
Christ's love,
with Christ's name on your lips,
the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,
God's love in your hearts,
God's beloved ones always in your sight,
and God's still speaking voice in your ear. **Amen.**