

# The Season of Easter

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

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# The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Dawn)

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Reading

### Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away,  
and you comfort me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust him and will not be afraid,  
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song,  
and he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.

Declare among the peoples what he has done.

Proclaim that his name is exalted!

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!

Let this be known in all the earth!

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,  
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

## Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? <sup>7</sup>Purge out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, just as you are unleavened. For our Passover lamb has been sacrificed, namely, Christ! <sup>8</sup>So let us keep celebrating the festival, not with old yeast, not with the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## Gospel

### John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,” she told them, “and we don’t know where they put him!”

<sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

<sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup>The cloth that had been on Jesus' head was not lying with the linen cloths, but was folded up in a separate place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>(They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.)

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him."

<sup>14</sup>After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and replied in Aramaic, "*Rabboni!*" (which means, "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup>Jesus told her, "Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" She also told them the things he said to her.

# The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day)

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*  
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## First Reading

**Jonah 2:2-9**

He said the following:

In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From the belly of the grave I cried out,  
and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup>You threw me into the depths,  
into the heart of the seas.

The currents swept around me.

All your breakers and your waves swept over me.

<sup>4</sup>I said, “I have been driven away from your sight.

Nevertheless, I will once again look toward your holy temple.”

<sup>5</sup>Waters engulfed me so that I was near death.

The deep surrounded me.

Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup>To the roots of the mountains I sank down.

The earth locked me behind its bars forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God.

<sup>7</sup>When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD.

My prayer came to you, to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup>Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the mercy that is theirs.

<sup>9</sup>But I, with a shout of thanksgiving, will indeed sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed, I will certainly pay in full.

Salvation belongs to the LORD!

## Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 15:1–11**

Brothers, I am going to call your attention to the gospel that I preached to you. You received it, and you took your stand on it. <sup>2</sup>You are also being saved by that gospel that was expressed in the words I preached to you, if you keep your hold on it—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

<sup>4</sup>that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

<sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

<sup>6</sup>After that he appeared to over five hundred brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, he appeared also to me, the stillborn child, so to speak. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted God's church. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not ineffective. On the contrary, I worked more than all of them (and yet it wasn't my doing, but it was the grace of God, which was with me, that did it). <sup>11</sup>So whether it is I or they, that is what we preach, and that is what you believed.

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup>Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!"

<sup>8</sup>They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

# The Second Sunday of Easter

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*  
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## First Reading

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

<sup>22</sup>“Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man, who was handed over by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. <sup>24</sup>He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

<sup>25</sup>“Indeed, David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore my heart was glad,  
and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon my life to the grave,  
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the paths of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

<sup>29</sup>“Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, <sup>31</sup>he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay.

<sup>32</sup>“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that.

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. <sup>5</sup>Through faith you are being protected by God’s power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

<sup>6</sup>Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials <sup>7</sup>so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel

### John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” <sup>22</sup>After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

# The Third Sunday of Easter

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## First Reading

**Acts 2:14a, 36-47**

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

<sup>32</sup>“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that. <sup>33</sup>So, after he was exalted to the right hand of God and after he received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out what you are now seeing and hearing.

<sup>34</sup>“For David did not ascend into heaven, and yet he says:

The Lord said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at my right hand,  
<sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies  
a footstool under your feet.’

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup>Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup>He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Escape from this crooked generation.”

<sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 1:17-21**

If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, <sup>18</sup>because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.



# Gospel

## Luke 24:13-35

Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped.

<sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup>“What things?” he asked them.

They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. <sup>23</sup>When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.”

So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. <sup>31</sup>Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup>They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup>They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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## First Reading

**Acts 2:42–47**

They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

<sup>46</sup>Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

<sup>21</sup>Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## Gospel

**John 10:1-10**

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup>“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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## First Reading

**Acts 4:8–12**

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, <sup>9</sup>if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup>“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 2:4-10**

As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,  
<sup>8</sup>and,  
a stone over which they stumble  
and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

## Gospel

**John 14:1-11**

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

<sup>5</sup>“Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup>“Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.”

# The Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*  
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## First Reading

**Acts 17:22-31**

Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup>Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. <sup>26</sup>From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. <sup>27</sup>He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. <sup>30</sup>Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 3:13–22**

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled. <sup>15</sup>But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. <sup>16</sup>But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, <sup>18</sup>because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God’s patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup>And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

# Gospel

## John 14:15-21

“If you love me, hold on to my commands. <sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.”

# The Ascension of Our Lord

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A  
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## First Reading

### Acts 1:1-11

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup>After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

## Second Reading

### Ephesians 1:15-23

This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, <sup>19</sup>and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. <sup>20</sup>It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup>The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



# Gospel

## Luke 24:44-53

He said to them, “These are my words, which I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

# The Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*  
*Evangelical Heritage Version*<sup>®</sup>

## First Reading

**Acts 1:12–26**

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

<sup>13</sup>When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

<sup>15</sup>In those days, when the group there numbered about 120 people, Peter stood up among the brothers and said, <sup>16</sup>“Gentlemen, brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David about Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Judas was counted as one of us and was given a share in this ministry.

<sup>18</sup>“Now this man acquired a field with what he was paid for his wicked act. When he fell headfirst, his middle burst open, and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup>This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, and so in their own language that field was called Akeldema, which means Field of Blood.

<sup>20</sup>Indeed, it is written in the book of Psalms:

May his residence be deserted.

Let there be no one dwelling in it.

And,

let someone else take his position.

<sup>21</sup>“Therefore it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us during the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from his baptism by John until the day Jesus was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

<sup>23</sup>They proposed two: Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.”

<sup>26</sup>Then they assigned lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias. So he was counted with the eleven apostles.

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 4:12-17, 5:6-11**

Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

<sup>14</sup>If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in

connection with this name. <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God?

<sup>5,6</sup>Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.

<sup>10</sup>After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

## **Gospel**

### **John 17:1-11a**

After Jesus had spoken these things, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup>For you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he may give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. <sup>4</sup>I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

<sup>9</sup>"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you."

# The Day of Pentecost

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 3-Year Lectionary, Year A  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Reading

### Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>They were completely baffled and said to each other, “Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God.” <sup>12</sup>They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others mocked them and said, “They are full of new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. <sup>15</sup>These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>This is what God says will happen in the last days:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in the sky above,  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.

<sup>20</sup>The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## **Second Reading**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3–11**

Therefore I am informing you that no one speaking by God's Spirit says, "A curse be upon Jesus," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>There are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of ministries, and yet the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are various kinds of activity, but the same God, who produces all of them in everyone.

<sup>7</sup>Each person is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one person a message of wisdom is given by the Spirit; to another, a message of knowledge, as the same Spirit provides it; <sup>9</sup>by the same Spirit, faith is given to someone else; and to another, the same Spirit gives healing gifts. <sup>10</sup>Another is given powers to do miracles; another, the gift of prophecy; another, the evaluating of spirits; someone else, different kinds of tongues; and another, the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>One and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them to each one individually as he desires.

## **Gospel**

### **John 7:37–39**

On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and called out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! <sup>38</sup>As the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me." <sup>39</sup>By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive. For the Holy Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.