

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

THEME: Do we despair if we no longer see God's "Wow"?

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

C: Lord, we confess our weakness of faith. We know that You simply spoke a word and the earth came into existence. We know that You have promised to continue to care for and provide for Your creation. Even though we have this knowledge, we fail to trust You for our daily bread. We ask for forgiveness and the ability to see Your work each day in our lives. We recognize our sin and in this moment of silence, we privately remember our shortcomings in love and life.

Silence for reflection

RECEIVING PEACE FROM GOD

P: God thinks so highly of you that He made you in His image. And even though our sin alters the image God intended us to have, God has the power—through His Son Jesus—to make you new. This newness comes in the forgiveness of our sin. Receive that forgiveness, in the name of Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 59 The Trees of the Field

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you, There'll be shouts of joy,
And all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands,
And all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
And all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands
While you go out with joy,
You shall go

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray.....Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Father, Son and Holy Spirit active in creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed

them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when they were created,
in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

[Epistle: Acts 2:14a, 22-36](#)

Sitting at the right hand of the Father, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus gives the command to baptize using the Trinity's name

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ATHANASIAN CREED (Pt. I)

**C: Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the Christian faith.
Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally.
Now this is the Christian faith: We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither
Confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.
For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another.
But the deity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty.
What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.
Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.
The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite.**

**Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal;
As there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who uncreated and unlimited.
Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit:
And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.
Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God:
And yet there are not three gods, but one God.
Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord:
And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.
As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so Christian
Religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.....**

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 304 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather A round the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us, How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

O all embracing Mercy, O ever open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

SERMON **Great Expectations**

ATHANASIAN CREED (Pt. II)

**C: The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten;
The Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father;
The Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.
Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three
spirits.
And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other;**

But all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in Unity and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became Flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God And man.

He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father,

And he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother---

Existing fully as God and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body;

Equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.

He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into Humanity.

He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures.

For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man.

He suffered death for our salvation.

He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

Those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the Christian faith.

One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.

OFFERING (We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: **hear our prayer**)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 126 Let us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

"Green Book" 221 Sent Forth by God's Blessings

Sent forth by God's Blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.