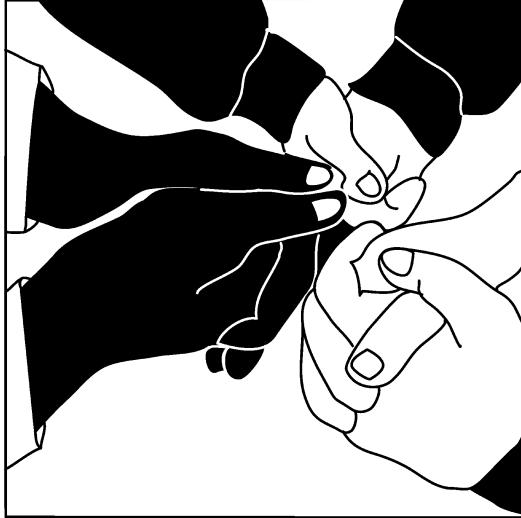


SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

You may send your photos and/or God Stories to GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org. Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS—FAREWELL & GODSPEED

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful and just God,

People: **we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of † Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

People: **Amen.**

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, alt.; Charles Wesley, st. 4

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the Lent-Easter bucket collection (Disaster Response).

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.*

FIRST READING

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (Acts 1:6-14)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

Lector: Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

**People: As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

Lector: But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

**People: Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

Lector: In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

**People: you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

Lector: O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

**People: the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Lector: You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**People: Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Lector: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

**People: You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

Lector: Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**People: How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

Lector: A reading from 1 Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:1-11)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.


People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Are Mine"



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I

I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 am the peace the world can - not give.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand

still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*

Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by
 name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I
To stanza 4
 love you and you are mine."

4 "I

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NICENE CREED

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding, like *Nicholas Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whom we commemorate today*. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief or illness, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. We pray especially for: *Margaret Blank; Elizabeth Maddox; Helen Bradham; Bunie Talbert; Charles Kauffman; JoAnn Pulse; the Williams family; Miles; Jack Ramsey; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give courage to all who embark on new ventures, for Beverly & Mike Wyka upon their move, and for Sam & Alyssa Arnold, who begin their journey together as husband and wife. We also especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces, all who made the ultimate sacrifice, and their families. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face continued uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."



OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us with your love and grace, for service in your name in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION (IN TIME OF FASTING FROM THE MEAL)

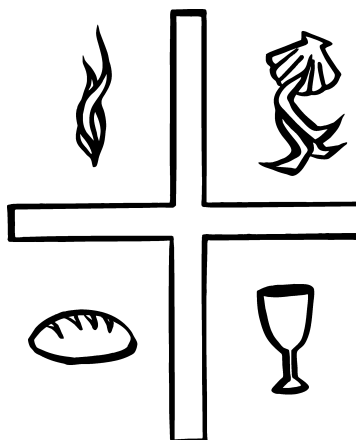
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we have been fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we fast from the Lord's Supper on this day, we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion, as we look forward to the joy of that day when we will again be gathered and fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal this day for reasons you understand, we sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting that day when we may fully share in his meal, we still remember, and cherish in our hearts, the words uplifting this great and glorious gift which Jesus gave us:

People: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and looking forward to that day when we will all be gathered again around the Lord's Table.



SONG FOR REFLECTION

"As the Grains of Wheat"



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

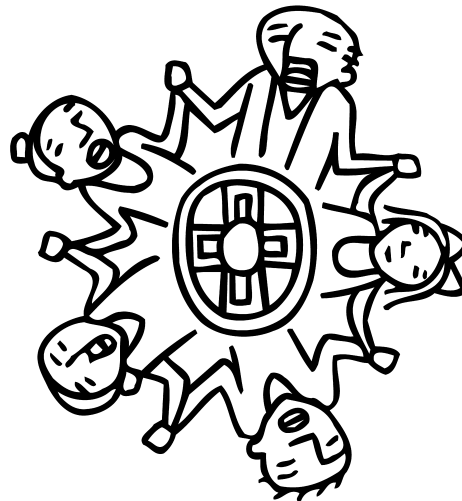
Text: Didache, Marty Haugen; © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., All rights reserved.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING THE RISEN JESUS SENDING US INTO THE WORLD +



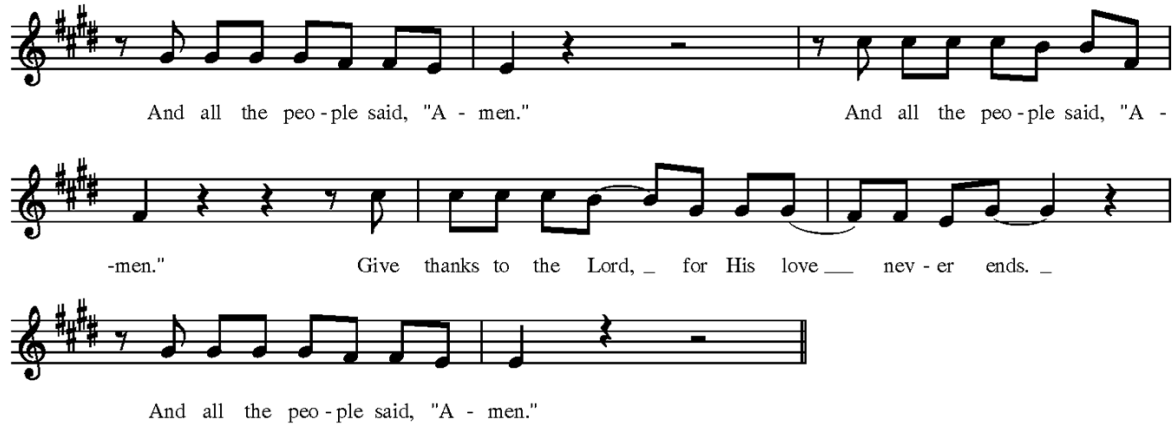
SENDING SONG

"All the People Said Amen"

*You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need (Chorus)*

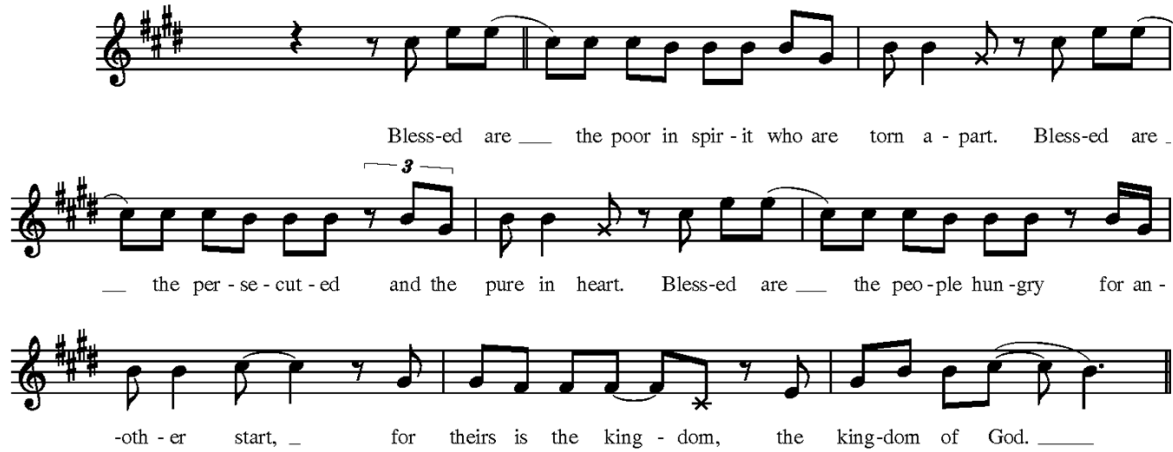
*If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all (Chorus/Bridge)*

CHORUS



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." And all the peo - ple said, "A -
men." Give thanks to the Lord, _ for His love _ nev - er ends. _
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

BRIDGE



Bless-ed are _ the poor in spir - it who are tom a - part. Bless-ed are _
_ the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless-ed are _ the peo - ple hun - gry for an -
-oth - er start, _ for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of God. ____

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BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Easter Seasonal Emphasis

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!" - Matthew 28:5-6

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Jesus' Prayer

Decades beyond her early childhood, from time to time she repeats the bedtime prayer she has never forgotten: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Guard me, Jesus, through the night, and wake me with the morning light." What then follows is the threading of names, precious like pearls, on a string. "God bless . . .," she begins, then lists mom, dad, grandmas, grandpas, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, all by name. Then teachers she liked, friends nearby and hungry children afar, the sick neighbor, the old man in the library, the blind lady at the post office, the lifeguard at the beach. Sometimes there is an "Amen," but often sleep comes first.

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, shares a farewell meal with them, and teaches for the last time about his way of love. He promises again the presence of the Spirit and the coming of God's peace. Then, at the end of the day, he prays that God will be with his followers—and he prays for each of us. Jesus prays for his disciples, that they might know the love of God just as much as they know the real person of Jesus.

Jesus' prayer is also a prayer for unity. Jesus prays that we may be one just as he and God are one. Jesus prays, "All mine are yours, and yours are mine" (John 17:10). Following Jesus' example, we also may pray for the unity of all people with God, and the reconciling of peoples and all creation. We pray that what the world rejects God will receive. We pray that what the world divides God will make one. We pray that what the world threatens God will protect.

May we be comforted by Jesus' prayer for us, and may we be so emboldened to pray ourselves for the blessing, presence, and unity found in our risen Lord and Savior.

✦ **COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY** ✦

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

May Books of the Month: 1 & 2 Corinthians

