

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**May 22nd, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

**And through Christ, gracious love is poured into our empty souls; through the Spirit, peace becomes the gift we can share with those around us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**PRELUDE** “This is My Father’s World with Reviere”

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalms 30, 89, 92, 95, 96 & 100)

We come to this place of prayer,  
**for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,  
our hidden fears and the doubts we dare wear on our sleeves.**  
We come to this place of grace,  
**for here we learn compassion and joy,  
and discover how deeply we are loved.**  
We come with these people called the church,  
**to be blessed by the variety of gifts,  
to live as one for our God.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN** “Christ is Made the Firm Foundation”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Enslaved to sin, we cannot see the lives we lead, God of Glory. Each day, and every day, there are those times when we ignore you and your dreams for us. Each week, and every week, we find the time to ridicule others, when we could have affirmed them. Each moment, and every moment, though we do not want to admit it, we seek our own way rather than skipping down your path of joy and obedience.**

**We come asking forgiveness for our foolish lives, Eternal Blessing. Deliver us, and break the chains of sin and death which hold us captive. Open us to that grace you offer, and give us the gift of the Spirit so we may live as people of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**MOMENT OF LAMENT FOR UVALDE, TEXAS**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**In the beginning was God, and at the end will be God, and in every moment in between, there is God: creating, redeeming, and sustaining us.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Psalm 18:25-30

**ANTHEM** Patriotic Medley Morris Fulcher

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Acts 20:13-38

**SERMON** Dealing with Loss of Leadership: Miletus

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Have you ever experienced the loss of a good leader?  
In what ways did God step into that space?  
In what ways is God calling you to be a leader?

**BEARING THE WORD OUT TO THE WORD**

**OFFERING**

*(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**OFFERTORY** Majesty and Glory of Your Name Rebekah Ratza

**DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**PAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

We leave this place of prayer,  
**to join God in listening to the hopes and dreams,  
the hidden fears and the doubts of our neighbors.**

We leave this place of grace,  
**to share the compassion and joy of Jesus with others,  
so they will discover how deeply they are loved.**

We leave to be with the people of our world,  
**so the Spirit might bless us with their rich gifts,  
so we may discover our oneness in God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

**Peace be with you!  
...and also with you!**



REMEMBERING  
**OUR**  
HEROES