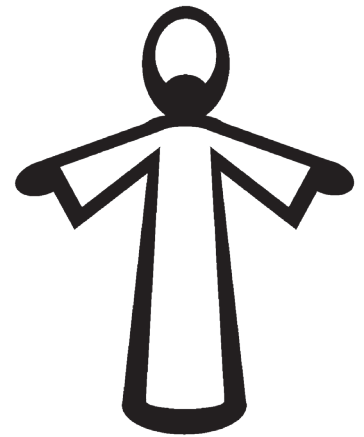


Easter 7

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year A)

After Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at God's right hand, the eleven remaining disciples regrouped to carry on the mission of Christ on earth. Jesus' prayer for them was that they would be one — that their unity would be their defining quality as a group and would serve them well in the mission at hand. They must choose who will replace Judas among them; it must be one who shares the same Spirit.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Acts 1:12–26

The Choosing of Matthias

As the disciples gather after Jesus' ascension, they have the task of choosing a replacement for Judas who was now dead. It must be one who was with them from Jesus' baptism to his resurrection. Two names are put forward: Justus and Matthias, with the lot falling to Matthias to be numbered among the original disciples.

Psalm 68:1–10

Sing Praises to God's Name

The psalmist cries out that God will put an end to his enemies, but he will protect and lead those who praise his name. The God of Israel is the God who sojourns with his people through the desert, marching ahead of them in the wilderness, bringing them home.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

Glorify God in Patient Suffering

Peter reminds the Christians that they will surely share in the sufferings that Christ suffered. It is to be expected, so we should not at all be surprised when the tests and trials come like fire. Blessed are those who are insulted in the name of the Savior of the world; this degradation brings God's Spirit and glory to rest upon us.

Gospel Reading: John 17:1–11

That They May Be One

Jesus prays what is known as his "high priestly prayer" in today's gospel lesson. He and the Father are one, and so he asks that all believers would also be one. Jesus prays for all those whom God has given him, those who have kept his holy word. The unity he prays for is the unity of a shared, common faith that binds us together.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Easter:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Use the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Nicene Creed.

Through Jesus Christ, all who believe are made into one, just as the Father, Son and Spirit are One God. Consider singing the camp song, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord," and talking with children about the bond we have in Jesus Christ. What does that mean for us? Is it a responsibility or a duty? Is it a joy and privilege? Or is it all of those things? (This song is in public domain and can be found through a simple web search.)

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Blessed Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48
The Church's One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	158	---	821	392	---	web
Lord, You Give the Great Commission	---	756	---	579	---	---
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!	328	---	549	634	16	16
Savior, Again to Your Dear Name	262	---	917	534	57	57
Sent Forth By God's Blessing	221	---	643	547	58	58
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Blest Are They	---	764	---	728	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
(CCLI# 6016351)
Hold On To Me
(CCLI# 7130439)
The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)
(CCLI# 7200544)
King of My Heart
(CCLI# 7046145)
Yes and Amen
(CCLI# 7048885)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.