

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Call to Worship

One: We have gathered — new followers and lifelong disciples, the powerful and the powerless, those who have too little and those who have too much.

All: We have gathered, for we are one in Christ.

One: We have come — seekers and skeptics, sinners and saints, the poor in spirit and the rich in faith.

All: We have come, for we are eager to hear God's word.

One: We are here, together.

All: Let us glorify the one true God.

Hymn #846 *Fight the Good Fight*

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.

Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide. God's boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear.

Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, you long for us to be one, just as you and the Father are one. But we gravitate toward those who think like us, behave like us, and pray like us because it is easier than looking beyond differences to discover what is good and kind and faithful in those we call the other. We are slow to embrace those with whom we hold little in common. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that we are washed in the same waters in baptism. Remake us in one mind, we may do the work you give us to do. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon**Passing the Peace****Prayer for Illumination**

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds— his name is the Lord— be exultant before him.

5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

7 O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Second Scripture Reading: I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

12 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.

13 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.

14 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.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

9 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.

10 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.

11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Homily "Standing Firm in the Faith"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Anthem *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

arr. Richard Walters

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
Come, ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wond'rously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder a new all the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *CWM Rhondda*

Paul Manz

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Luis Alvarez; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dave Askine; Joyce DeLoach; Ann Wright; Roy Kreitz; Will Grant (grandson of Linda Ross)

Loss of loved one: Garland DeLoach's sister, Norma