Allen Powers, Leading Elder Sunday Liturgy May 21 Anno Domini 2023

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

<u>Reflections</u>

All power structures, ancient or modern, whether political, economic, or racial, have the potential to become rivals to Christ, beckoning his followers to submit themselves to them in order to find a fuller security. The invitation is as blasphemous as it is unnecessary. Christ brooks no rivals. His people need no one but him.

N.T. Wright from *Colossians & Philemon*

Idols call to us, luring us with the false promises of other gods and saviors: money, sex, power, success, relationships, and fame; and in their very midst, we remember Jesus, the firstborn of the new creation, and declare that we live for another King and another kingdom.

Mike Cosper

Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

C. S. Lewis

Because the gospel is not about choosing to follow advice, it's about being called to follow a King. Not just someone with the power and authority to tell you what needs to be done—but someone with the power and authority to do what needs to be done, and then to offer it to you as good news.

Timothy Keller

Romeo:What shall I swear by?Juliet:Do not swear at all; or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self, which is the god
of my idolatry.

William Shakespeare from *Romeo and Juliet*, Act II, Scene II

Allon Downon	Sunday Liturgy	The Seventh
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Call to Worship from Isaiah 40

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

People: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Leader: Even youths shall faint and be weary, but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

People: they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.!

Hymn of Praise: In

In the Dawning of Creation

In the Dawning of Creation

Job 38:7 Donald T. Williams Gustav Holst stars to - geth - er In the of dawn ing cre а tion the Thee, great Je ho all that Thou hast So we praise vah for sang; in har - mo ni - ous e - qua - tions their sil - ver voi - ces to sup - er - no made from the auarks vas. be fore our minds dis 6 Þ the and the gels con-tem - pla - ted beau of the rang; an -_ ty sen - ses, which find played. to And You aave us our mis sives ev - eru -6 heard in Lord in what He'd а - ted and ev _ seen cre eru break-ing through fen with news that You where, our de ses are 16 6 chord. Still the pho - ny con ues its sym tin through there. Thus the firm a - ment de clar eth 19 6 . . re - soun -clear mes rich and ly - ric lines now ding in the ven ues of - eth: all its migh - ty frame the clear mes sage that it bear the 6 P minds. hυ man hearts and Thy glo ry of name!

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Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sin

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:15-22

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Leader:This is the Word of the Lord**People:Thanks be to God.**

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father, We know that we were slaves to sin, that we were obedient slaves, that we thought only of ourselves and our own desires. We know, as the Apostle describes, that we presented our bodies, and even our hearts and minds, to the sin that was our master. We did this of ourselves, and became more and more enmeshed in our lawlessness. Now, we have been purchased from that master by Jesus and called away from that slavery by Your Holy Spirit. Now we know that we are slaves of righteousness and our master is You, the one true God.

And yet, the day is going away and we are still not sanctified. We are still rebellious and we suffer in our sin. Father, cause us yet again to confess and repent, and again to seek Your face. In You alone is freedom. Assure us of that freedom through the cross of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

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Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God: Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader:	People of God: We stand before Him as free men and women, free from
	guilt, shame and pain. We stand before our Lord at peace with Him. May
	that peace be upon you all the days of your life.
People:	Praise be to God, who has given us this peace.
Leader:	May that peace be upon you all the days of our life.
People:	And also with you.

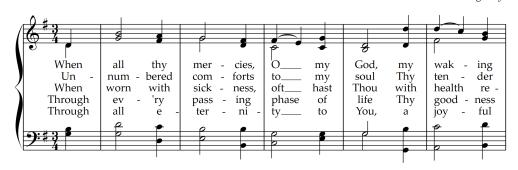
Hymn of Response: When All Thy Mercies, O My God

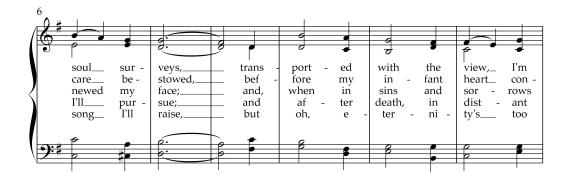
When All Thy Mercies, O My God

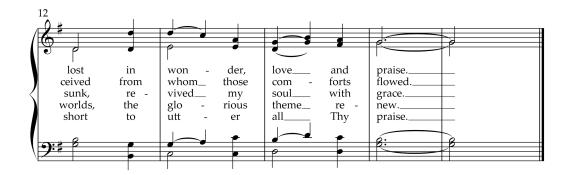
for Piano

Joseph Addison, 1712

William Gardiner, 1812 Arranged by







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Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer		Tom Arnold
Hymn:	Doxology	
Affirmation of Faith		The Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer No. 1
Leader: People:	What is our only comfo That I, with body an	ort in life and death? d soul, both in life and death, am n

People: That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yes, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.

Hymn: Gloria Patri

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn: To You, O Lord, I Fly

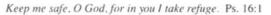
(Music on Next Page)

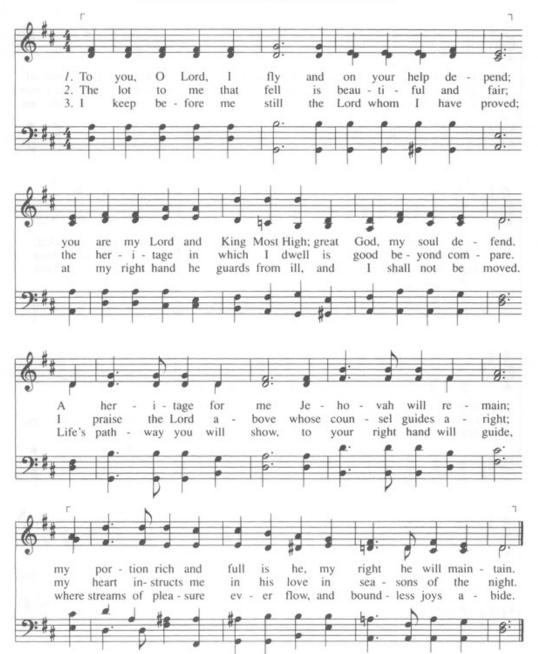
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To You, O Lord, I Fly

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Scripture: Psalm 16

I say to the Lo As for the sai The sorrows of their drink or take the The Lord is m you hold m The lines hav indeed, I ha I bless the Lo in the nigh I have set the because he Therefore my my flesh a For you will r or let your You make kn	nts in the land, they are the of those who run after anoth offerings of blood I will not ir names on my lips. By chosen portion and my c by lot. It also for me in pleasant p ave a beautiful inheritance. It also my heart instructs me Lord always before me; is at my right hand, I shall heart is glad, and my whol lso dwells secure. Tho the abandon my soul to She tholy one see corruption.	 ve no good apart from you." excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. her god shall multiply; t pour out up; blaces; e. not be shaken. e being rejoices; ol, in your presence there is fullness of joy; 	
Leader: People:	The grass withers, the flower fades, But the Word of our God will stand forever!		
Sermon:	Psalm 16 (Part I)	Rev. Rich Lusk	
Prayer			
Closing Hymn	Ig Hymn Happy the Home When God Is There		
	(Music on the Next Page)		

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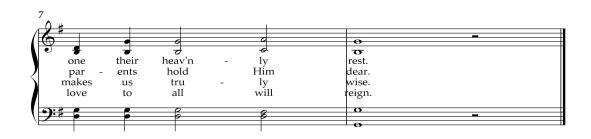
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Happy the Home When God Is There

"He will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord." - Gen. 18:19 Henry Ware, Jr. DOWNS C.M.







Benediction:Ephesians 3:20-21Leader:Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask
or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in
the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and
ever. And God's people said:

All: Amen!