

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*May 12, 2024*

**Pre-Service Music:** *At the Altar* - Sabrina Brem

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**Prelude:** *Like a River Glorious* - Lisa Hoekstra

**Introit#634:** *To God Be the Glory* Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship:**

What a blessing!

**We gather to listen and to discern God's will.**

What a fellowship!

**We join together and share our testimony in the presence of God.**

Our delight in God will be our song of praise.

**We come to worship God with our whole hearts.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Saving God, your goodness supports us as we learn to hope and trust in it. As the world moves on, day by day, we hold onto your promise of life in the face of death, your salvation miracle. We yearn to build a community of faith in which we can flourish, so that, embracing this good news, we might share your grace and mercy with others. Hear our prayer. Amen.**

**Hymn #305:** *Come Sing, O Church in Joy* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Scripture tells us that our sufferings are known to Christ,

**that we can cast all our anxiety on Jesus,  
who restores, supports, strengthens and establishes us.**

Knowing this,

**let us come to God in a spirit of openness.**

## Prayer of Confession

**Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.**

## Declaration of Pardon

Listen to this prayer: “Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

**This is the prayer that Christ prayed on our behalf.**

This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is— the one who hears our prayers, responding to our longing for forgiveness with mercy.

**Thanks be to God, praise be to Christ, glory be to the Holy Spirit.**

**The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

**Gloria Patri #583:**                      *Glory to God*                      *(please stand)*

## Anthem:

## Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.*

God of grace.     **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the Good News. *(brief silence)*

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all church leadership to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments.

God of grace.     **Hear our prayer.**

\*\*\*

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ our resurrected and living Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Hymn #465:**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

(seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**First Lesson:** Acts 1:15 – 17, 21 - 26

**Epistle Lesson:** I John 5:9 - 13

**Gospel Lesson:** John 17: 6 - 19

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*The Twelfth Apostle*

Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith:** 1 Tim. 3:16 and 2 Tim. 2:11-13 (stand)

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion:  
Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.

The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please be seated)

**Offertory Hymn #708:**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

*vs. 1 and 2*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and share them to support the work of the church in this place, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #747:**

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

(stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us,  
and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.  
You are the body of Christ.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *The Zeal of the Lord* - Anthony Giamanco

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Carol Bennett and sermon provided by Susan Murray. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2023, and Sundays and Seasons 2024, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2023.*