

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Home Devotional May 24, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Psalm: Psalm 68:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;  
and those who hate him shall flee before him!  
<sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;  
as wax melts before fire,  
so the wicked shall perish before God!  
<sup>3</sup>But the righteous shall be glad;  
they shall exult before God;  
they shall be jubilant with joy!  
<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;  
his name is the LORD;  
exult before him!  
<sup>5</sup>Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.  
<sup>6</sup>God settles the solitary in a home;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.  
<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,  
<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,  
before God, the One of Sinai,  
before God, the God of Israel.  
<sup>9</sup>Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;  
you restored your inheritance as it languished;  
<sup>10</sup>your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

**First Reading: Acts 1:12–26**

<sup>12</sup>Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup>(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"“May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it”;  
and  
“Let another take his office.”  
<sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And "If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

...  
<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav'ly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king  
Through all eternity.
- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,  
The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won  
Which now His brow adorn:  
Fruit of the mystic rose,  
Yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows,  
The babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.  
Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes  
At mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,  
Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
For He is king of all.

Text: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018  
Concordia Publishing House.

## Collect of the Day

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.