

**WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor Karen Williams**

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Amen.

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

**(L)PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. amen.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 17:1-11**

*John 17:1-11*

*1After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.*

*6"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.*

*11And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*

**(L)This is the Word of the Lord.**

**(P)Thanks be to God.**

**“What is eternal life?”**

**Our reading this morning for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, has Jesus praying for his mission and followers. Perhaps it is one of the most relevant and truthful definitions of what Pentecost is supposed to be as disciples of. Jesus is no longer in the world. We as his disciples are to carry on and do the work that Jesus and the disciples started.**

**The incarnation is over. Jesus has been resurrected. He ascended to the Father from where he came. But we are still in the world, Jesus’ works are now in our hands, and Jesus is counting on us to be his presence in the wake of his absence.**

**You see, the work that Jesus had been doing upon the earth as fully human and fully God had been planned from the before the world began. Just as you and I were planned by God when the world began. Jesus prayerfully stated this fact the Father already knew, Jesus was reminding the Father, even though the Father needed no reminding that everything was unfolding according to their plans.**

**But for the disciples a problem began, they had no real idea what the phrase “Eternal life” meant. We can even now sympathize with them. So, Jesus does define it for them then and in those words, we too learn of eternal life without end.**

*“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”*

*This verse clearly stated by John explains why the conversation was so important. It stated that Jesus the Christ is the Son, the Savior sent by the Father, and both persons of God. The Crucifixion was a*

*mutually planned event, a weapon standing gracefully standing over against the sinful ambitions of humanity.”*

*(Pastor Tom Beam; Knowing Eternal Life)*

God's glory in John is more like being at the heart of a fireworks display rather than watching it on TV. One sees the light, feels the thunder of it, finds oneself breathless, and if you are my Sweetness, she is shivering from the big booms. We are caught up in the majesty and wonder of the colors that light up the night.

*John's notion of God's glory is informed by the Old Testament which speaks much of the glory of the Lord. As in many other places in John, Exodus looms large in the author's imagination. Consider Exodus 40:35: "Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." Here's the point: the glory of the Lord is God's presence. With every word he or she can muster, the author of John pushes to intimacy. Jesus came to reveal that as God's sole intention, to model that unity, to complete that unity, Jesus glorified God by completing the works God sent him to do.*

*(Jaime Clark-Soles; Commentary on John 17:1-11)*

So, now all this knowledge of gets passed on from Jesus to us the believers who will do greater works with Jesus at our side. We know glorify God when we reveal God's love to the world that God created and that God will love us to the end, even as the world shows resistance here and there. No matter what the job is done. Jesus has conquered the world and he prays for the world.

In everything that I researched for this passage, we see that Jesus is trying to tell the disciples about eternal life and what it means to be in communion with God, the Father. In his only Son, we have Jesus to show us the wonder of God's love, the way to live as God's children.

But, what does eternal life mean to you? John defines eternal life as being in relationship with God and Christ, what John calls "knowing". Recall that Jesus knew everything that was in everyone and had no need for anyone to tell him anything. This is the deepest kind of knowing. When all is said and done, what deeper desire

exists than to know and be truly known, understand and be truly understood, love and be truly loved? According to John, that's the meaning of life.

We are strong and equipped to do greater works than Jesus. There is no reason we can't just as effectively demonstrate and reveal God's love for everything in God's cosmos as did Jesus. We cannot pretend to be waiting for something God has yet to provide before we get on with the work at hand. Be sure that the road ahead will be rough enough that Jesus feels the need to offer prayers for our protection as we go. We know that we are in good hands with Jesus at our side there is nothing we can't do. There is nothing that we have to prove, we are all here to do God's work. No matter how we venture out, the point is that we go out and spread the work of God by using what we have learned from Jesus. First and foremost, we spread the love to nonbelievers that Jesus shows us every day. Every little act of kindness, every kind word spoken shows the love of Jesus.

So, rise, and let us start.

God loves you! And so do I.

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

What if we imagined that the resurrection of Jesus was just the beginning and not the conclusion of the Gospel?

That the promises of the resurrection are, in part, ours to fulfill?

How would life of discipleship, of witness, of love be different were we to trust that Jesus meant what he said in 14:12, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

Resurrecting God, in a doubting world, keep us in faith that we may have life.

We pray for the church universal. breathe on us your holy spirit, that we may honor and pass on the great inheritance we have received.

We pray for Mother earth, that we may touch her wounds with healing care and love.

We pray for the whole world, its nations, its leaders, and its people, that your wisdom and peace may prevail.

We pray for all those in need, the suffering, the oppressed, the ill, the dying, and all those who care for them. Especially those that have been stricken with Covid 19 and all who care for them.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love. For all those essential workers that work every day to provide us our needs.

Blessed are you, O God, who through Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and in the community of the holy spirit, gives us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading, now and forever. Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

May the God who loves and resurrects us give you a goodly portion of the holy spirit and new birth into a living hope.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**As Pentecost approaches, I would like to share the meditations for this coming week from the “Daily Feast – Feasting on the Word Year A”**

- **Monday: Read Numbers 11:24-30**

**Reflection: If we try to respond to the crying needs of the world as individuals, we will soon find ourselves in despair. The Pentecost experience and the gift of the Holy Spirit mean that no one need to carry any burden alone. For leaders, as well as all others, God’s Spirit is always available to guide, always willing to lead, and always present in every circumstance. (Carole A. Crumley)**

**Response: Think about all the witnesses of faith who surround you in celebrating this Pentecost experience. Name them!**

**Prayer: God of fire and wind, renew the face of the earth. Amen.**

- **Tuesday: Read Numbers 11:24-30**

**Reflection: What spiritual disciplines help you to practice turning to God?**

**What way of praying open you to God's guidance?**

**Where do you find support for your spiritual journey?**

**Who listens with you to the movement of the Spirit in your life and encourages your response to God's calling?**

**Where is an honest authentic spiritual community in which you can reveal your doubts and fears and deepen in your knowledge and love of God?**

**What action in the world invites your God-given talents and engages your passion for living?**

**Where do you find the courage to live out those invitations?**

**(Carole A. Crumbly)**

**Response: Pause and think about your response to one or more questions asked above.**

**Prayer: Spirit who moves with both force and gentleness, surround me with hope and courage as I move faithfully into the world you have created. Amen**

- **Wednesday: Read Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

**Reflection: The ecological crisis may indeed lead us into a deeper relationship with our God and help awakens us to the true meaning of life, which is to love all that exists. The psalmist pleads for the "glory of the Lord to endure forever" (v.31) and speaks of a God "who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke" (v.32). This time in our history may be a moment of grace that will transform our lifestyles from consumerism to a life in harmony with creation. (Constance M. Koch, OP)**

**Response: Where are you a consumer of the created world?  
Where are the places you live in harmony with creation?**

**Prayer: You invite me to always go deeper, God of wind and fire. As you look on this earth, look also on me as I struggle to be a good steward of your creation. Amen.**

- **Thursday: Read Acts 2:1-21**

**Reflection: Freedom in the Spirit versus structure and order- this dynamic has never disappeared in the life of the church.**

**With Spirit-led freedom came tremendous gains in shattering received religious and cultural pattern of all types, including crossing the Jew-Gentile barrier, making advances against sexism, and moving people toward radical economic sharing and away from selfishness.**

**Response: What boundaries in God's Spirit inviting you to cross?**

**Prayer: You shake my world, confront my prejudices, and hold my life in front of me, O God. Amen.**

- **Friday: Read Acts 2:1-21**

**Reflection: No matter how you look at it, Acts 2 shows a big God with a big word at work expanding out into a big world. These are the kind of God and the kind of story that inspire listeners and create, not little people of the little word, but believers who are madly expressive. (Tana Childers)**

**Response: Consider your life of faith. In what ways is it "madly expressive"?**

**Prayer: God, you are indeed so much bigger than I can imagine. Help me to let you be that kind of God, not one that I would try to put in a small box. Amen.**

- **Saturday: Read John 27-39**

**Reflection: When thirsty people come to Jesus, he does not merely hand them a spiritual beverage, momentary relief for thirst; he gives them instead the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (this is why this text appears in the lectionary at Pentecost). Through the Spirit, believers participate in the unceasing life of God, and the water of abundant life flows and flows through them.**

**Response: For what do you thirst? What needs quenching in your life?**

**Prayer: Dwell deeply in my life, satisfying all hungers and quenching all thirsts. Amen.**

*In Christ's Name,*

*Pastor Karen*

