

The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday After Ascension Day)

STAND

Let us pray.

Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen

The Old Testament Lesson. The reader says:

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

SIT

Ezekiel 36: 24-28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and

I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

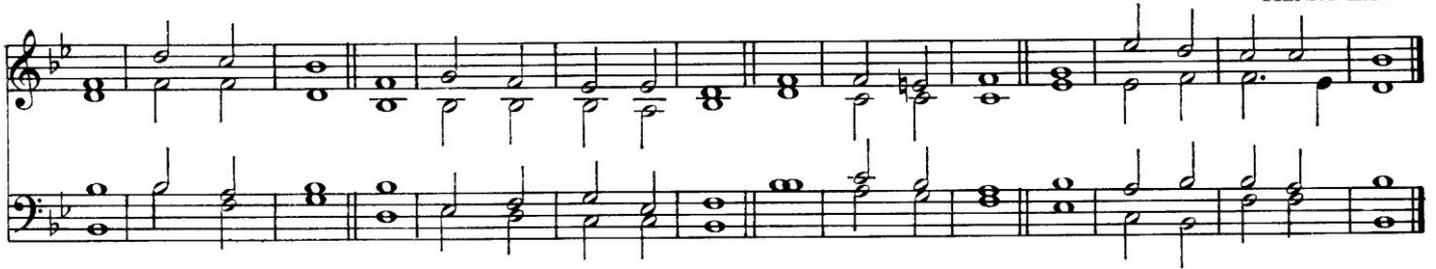
Silence

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

HENRY LAWES



Psalm 97

The Lord is king: * let the / earth re- / joice: let the multitude / of the / isles be / glad.

Clouds and darkness are / round a- / bout him: righteousness and justice are the foun- / dation / of his / throne.

† Fire / goes be- / fore him: and burns up his / enemies • on / every / side.

His lightnings / lit • up the / world: the / earth / saw it • and / trembled.

The mountains melted like wax at the / presence • of the / Lord: at the presence of the / Lord • of the / whole / earth.

† The heavens de- / clared his / righteousness: and all the / peoples have / seen his / glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in / mere / idols: Bow down be- / fore him, / all you / gods.

Zion heard and was glad, * and the daughters of / Judah re- / joiced: be- / cause of • your / judgements, O / Lord.

† For you, Lord, are most high over / all the / earth: you are exalted / far a- / bove all / gods.

The Lord loves those / who hate / evil: he preserves the lives of his faithful * and delivers them / from the / hand • of the / wicked.

Light has sprung / up • for the / righteous: and / joy • for the / true of / heart.

† Rejoice in the / Lord, you / righteous: and give / thanks • to his / holy / name.

Acts 16: 16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the

stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Silence *Reader:* This is the word of the Lord *Response:* **Thanks be to God.** *STAND*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

I will not leave you orphans says the Lord: I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.

Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel. Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John. *Sung response:* **Glory to you O Lord.**

John 17: 20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

After the Gospel: This is the Gospel of the Lord. *Sung response:* **Praise to you O Christ.**

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this

mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**