

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**&**  
**Service of Thanksgiving for Bishop Brian N. Prior**

Welcome to the Service of the Word for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter along with a Thanksgiving for the Episcopate of Brian N. Prior. I invite you into a time of meditation in preparation.

**Opening Song**

*Be Still For the Presence of the Lord*

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The holy one is here

Come bow before him now

With reverence and fear

In him no sin is found

We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here.

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Presider:* There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People:* There is one hope in God's call to us;

*Presider:* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People:* One God and Father of all.

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Presider:* Let us pray.

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider:* O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14**

A Reading from the Book of Acts:

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36**

**Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \***

let those who hate him flee before him.

**Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \***

as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence  
of God.

**But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \***

let them also be merry and joyful.

**Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;**

**exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \***

YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

**Father of orphans, defender of widows, \***

God in his holy habitation!

**God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into  
freedom; \***

but the rebels shall live in dry places.

**O God, when you went forth before your people, \***

when you marched through the wilderness,

**The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,**

**at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \***

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

**You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \***

you refreshed the land when it was weary.

**Your people found their home in it; \***

in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

**Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \***

sing praises to the Lord.

**He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \***

he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

**Ascribe power to God; \***

his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

**How wonderful is God in his holy places! \***

the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!

Blessed be God!

### **The Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

A reading from the first book of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Alleluia Verse**

## **Gospel: John 17:1-11**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* Glory to you Lord Christ.

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

"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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for 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. I 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior**

### **Apostles Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Brief Time of Thanksgiving**

#### **Bishop:**

*Express thanksgiving for the time of the tenure, with its joys and sorrows, and state hopes for the future of ECMN. Express thanks to the Missioners and all of ECMN.*

#### **Missioners:**

*Offer brief individual thoughts of thanksgiving for the Bishop's time in ECMN – in this order:*

Jessica, Karen, Bob+, Rachel, Sarah

### **Prayers of the People**

O God, you have bound us together for a time as bishop and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in ECMN: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past.

*Silence*

We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our failures.

*Silence*

Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

*Silence*

We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism, reception, confirmation or ordination. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

*Silence*

Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you

*People:* And also with you. Peace of the Lord.

### **The Blessing**

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still, and keep us in his ways. *Amen.*

May God, whose Son has loved us and given himself for us, love us still, and establish us in peace. *Amen.*

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come.  
*Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*People:* **Amen!**