



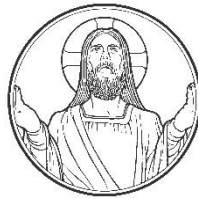
# ABOUT THE PROPERs

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 2025



“Because He Lives”

Christ Creates Unity Within Diversity

When Jesus’ followers gathered together after he rose from the dead, they comprised a group that was not very diverse. They all belonged to the same ethnic group, grew up in the same culture, spoke the same language, and followed the same customs. That would change drastically on Pentecost, when the gospel would be proclaimed in many languages to people from “every nation under heaven” (Acts 1:5). This diversity has always been part of Christ’s plan. Rather than eliminating differences among the Church’s members, the Church’s unity is built on truths that transcend those differences. The Church truly is a communion of saints. Differences in our world often lead to division. That is not to be the case in the Church. Because he lives, Christ creates unity within diversity.

### First Reading<sup>3</sup>

Acts 16:6-10

How richly the Lord blessed the proclamation of his Gospel in the provinces of Asia Minor. Yet, in keeping with divine will, Paul is directed by the Spirit of Jesus to take the Word of Life to the continent of Europe. With Spirit-inspired zeal Paul and companions immediately prepare to depart, eager to take the Good News to Macedonia. This is the very advancement of the Gospel for which Jesus prays in his High Priestly.

### Second Reading<sup>3</sup>

Revelation 22:12-17,20

A final revelation of encouragement promises that the High Priest who now prays for us will come again, and soon! He will come with reward in hand to invite the faithful into the eternal city. Beyond the treacherous reach of rampant evil, there is eternal safety and providence for the redeemed, for all those who thirst. Come to the eternal waters of life. Come, Lord Jesus.

### Gospel<sup>3</sup>

John 17:20-26

Our High priest has ascended his throne to sit at the right hand of the Father and intercede for his Church. In his High Priestly Prayer Jesus prays for the future Church, for us. In everything, our High Priest prays that we might enjoy the same relationship that Father and Son have enjoyed from eternity. The redemptive work complete, the connection through water and the Word established, our High Priest seeks for us unity, knowledge and eternal glory.

### Psalm of the Day<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 62 C

“My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone”

The Church sings Psalm 62 in services that emphasize the rest we find in Jesus, not in anything that we ourselves accomplish or endure. The psalm’s theme is the absolute trustworthiness of our God, which moves us to flee to him in faith and to count on him in crisis. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 62 is a teaching psalm. It instructs us about false trust in human beings and true trust in God. Human beings simply do not see that trust in powerful people is worthless, and they are surprised when everything around them collapses. In contrast, when I trust God, my soul is satisfied.”

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:18

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." Jesus said these words to the disciples during the Last Supper. Jesus' followers would need this assurance because over the course of the next several hours as they would witness their Lord betrayed, arrested, put on trial, suffer, and die. Jesus promised them that after his ascension, he would send his Holy Spirit upon them at Pentecost. The promise also reminds us that Jesus would return to them after his resurrection and will come back to all believers on the Last Day.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

446 "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense" (Otto von Schwerin, 1616-1679)

## Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

Easter

After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias and glorias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. Easter is as the pinnacle of the Church Year, the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

## Colors & Symbolism

White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

## Traditions & Customs

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter. It was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin and death (Ex 12; 1 Cor 6:6-8). The candle is lit for services during Easter to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among us. The candle is also lit for Baptisms and funerals, reminding us of our resurrection to eternal life.

## Nain Paraments

Easter

Superfrontal: *Alleluia* is a taken from a Hebrew word which means, "Praise the LORD." It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus' death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year A". Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year B". Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year C". Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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