

# The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service

**Prelude**

*Fantasia in d minor*

G. P. Telemann

## **Opening Hymn 702 (vs. 1, 3-5) “Lord, thou hast searched me”**

*Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know  
where'er I rest, where'er I go;  
thou knowest all that I have planned,  
and all my ways are in thy hand.*

*Where can I go apart from thee,  
or whither from thy presence flee?  
In heaven? It is thy dwelling fair;  
in death's abode? Lo, thou art there.*

*If I the wings of morning take,  
and far away my dwelling make,  
the hand that leadeth me is thine,  
and my support thy power divine.*

*If deepest darkness cover me,  
the darkness hideth not from thee;  
to thee both night and day are bright,  
the darkness shineth as the light.*

## **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People* and blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*All sing.*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from the book of Genesis 28:10-19a**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23**

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

### **A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 8:12-25**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Music**

*Come, O Thou Traveller Unknown*

Words Charles Wesley  
Tune traditional Scottish

**The Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**

*Deacon or Priest*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*                      Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*Deacon/Priest*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                      Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Dr. Stephen Smith**

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for the Church, for St. Patrick’s and our leadership, our bishop and clergy, and for all churches everywhere.

*Bring us to unity, O Lord.*

We pray for our nation, for all in leadership. We pray for safety, peace, civility in our public discourse, and for all to have the freedom needed for the pursuit of happiness.

*Unify our nation, O Lord.*

We pray for our world, for peace and freedom; that we may appreciate our differences rather than feel threatened by them; that all people may live in safety and be treated as equals in the eyes of God.

*Bring unity to our broken world, O Lord.*

We pray for our local community and all those in our neighborhood, the homeless and those who suffer, especially from addiction. We give thanks for the helpers, especially our teachers, firefighters, police and public servants.

*Bring together our neighborhoods, O Lord.*

We pray for those in trouble, for those who suffer with illness, for the sad, the lonely and the anxious, for the poor and the homeless, and for all who have been wounded by war, whether their wounds are seen or not.

*Unite us in care for our world, O Lord.*

We pray for those who have died, especially those who died young, or suddenly and unprepared. We pray for those who grieve and are affected by loss.

*Join us together as your saints now and in the age to come.*

We pray for those related to our parish who are on the front line of our hospitals and care facilities...

We pray for those who have requested our prayers, for . . . .

We pray for those celebrating birthdays . . . and those celebrating anniversaries...

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession**

*Deacon or Priest*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Officiant and People, together, all kneeling*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, we are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

### **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
*Amen.*

### **Peace**

### **Announcements**

**Hymn 370 verse 6** “St. Patrick’s Breastplate”

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Celebrant*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 424** “For the fruit of all creation”

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.  
In the just reward of labor, God’s will be done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will be done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will be done.  
For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

*We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

African-American Spiritual