

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 13, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵During this time, the family of believers was a company of about one hundred twenty persons. Peter stood among them and said, ¹⁶“Brothers and sisters, the scripture that the Holy Spirit announced beforehand through David had to be fulfilled. This was the scripture concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷This happened even though he was one of us and received a share of this ministry.”

²¹“Therefore, we must select one of those who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord

Jesus lived among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when Jesus was taken from us. This person must become along with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³So they nominated two: Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴They prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s deepest thoughts and desires. Show us clearly which one you have chosen from among these two ²⁵to take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” ²⁶When they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was added to the eleven apostles.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 1

The truly happy person doesn’t follow wicked advice, doesn’t stand on the road of sinners, and doesn’t sit with the disrespectful.

²Instead of doing those things, these persons love the LORD’s Instruction, and they recite God’s Instruction day and night!

³They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don’t fade. Whatever they do succeeds.

⁴That’s not true for the wicked! They are like dust that the wind blows away.

⁵And that’s why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—neither will sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶The LORD is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 5:9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, God’s testimony is greater, because this is what God testified: he has testified about his Son. ¹⁰The one who believes in God’s Son has the testimony within; the one who doesn’t believe God has made God a liar, because that one has not believed the testimony that God gave about

his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in his Son. ¹²The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn’t have God’s Son does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of God’s Son so that you can know that you have eternal life.

THE GOSPEL John 17:6-19

⁶I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this 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 comes from you. ⁸This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹²When I was with them, I watched over them in your name,

the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³Now I’m coming to you and I say these things while I’m in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don’t belong to this world, just as I don’t belong to this world. ¹⁵I’m not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They don’t belong to this world, just as I don’t belong to this world. ¹⁷Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.”

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