

The Sixth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 9, 2021



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Tune: LSB 397

- 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the sky,
 For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,
 Lord of all to Thee we raise: This our hymn of grateful praise.

- 2 For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light,
 Lord of all to Thee we raise: This our hymn of grateful praise.

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
 For the mystic harmony linking sense of sound and sight,
 Lord of all to Thee we raise: This our hymn of grateful praise.

- 4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
 Friends on earth and friends in heav’n, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
 Lord of all to Thee we raise: This our hymn of grateful praise.

- 5 For each perfect gift of Thine, to our race so freely giv’n,
 Graces human and divine, Flow’rs of earth and buds of heav’n.
 Lord of all to Thee we raise: This our hymn of grateful praise.

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and to call upon him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

All: **O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION — “God Himself Is Present”

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple; All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.
He alone On His throne
Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

- 2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Acts 10:34-48, NIV

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness

of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues^[b] and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING – 1 John 5:1-8, NIV

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA HYMN– “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477 Vs. 3

3 Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 15:9-17, ESV

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

LSB 905 Vs. 1-2

1 Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious, O’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

- 2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

LSB 905 Vss. 3-4

- 3 Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.
- 4 To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see,
And to eternity Love and adore.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB 525

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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