

The Sixth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 17, 2020

***WELCOME!** Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. Today we are reminded that Christ dwells in us through the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around his Word the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*



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'rence.
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, Worshipping 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 11:1-18, ESV

In our first reading, Peter is given a vision by God. Because of that vision, he is taught that God has given salvation through Jesus Christ as a gift for all people, not a certain select group.

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish

to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING – 1 Peter 3:13-22, ESV

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA HYMN– “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” LSB 477

1 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

- 2 Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

- 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 14:15-21, ESV

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

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

LSB 905

- 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.

- 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. ✠