

May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

AS WE GATHER

What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us “another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God’s will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering “for righteousness’ sake” living in the very resurrection hope of Christ.

Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ’s victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; ⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

HYMN

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

[Wordsworth / Hodges / van Beethoven © 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd (admin by Hope PublishingCo.). CCLI# 254312]

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.

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.

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!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved, Jesus said, “I will be with you always.” Let us take Him at His word and come into His presence, sharing our great need of Him as we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

People: **I confess to almighty God all my sins with which I have offended You, especially the sin of trying to go it alone without You. On my own, I am weak, and sin so easily makes me forget Your Word and will for my life. I have sinned in many ways by evil thoughts, words, and deeds. Because of Your merciful death on the cross and in the power of Your resurrection from the dead, let me hear from You the words of Your grace and forgiveness and new life. Amen.**

Pastor: In keeping with His promise, the Lord sends another helper to deliver His own words of forgiveness. So now, 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.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

God our Father, You protect Your children from all that would harm our salvation. Give us the courage of faith and love toward You, that we have boldness to live for You and confess Your holy name before all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: *Acts 17:16–31*

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” ²¹(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

[Carolina Sandell Bert / Ernst W. Olson. Public domain]

Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them,
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne’er forsaketh.
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

[Rodgers / Wyse © 1989 Word Music, LLC/Dayspring Music, LLC; CCLI# 254312]

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

REFRAIN:

**You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. **(Refrain)**

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. **(Refrain)**

SERMON: "If You Love Me, You Will Obey" John 14:15-21

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the new life and salvation with which You have brought beauty into our lives and our world again through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that You open the ears of all who hear Your Word, that this salvation come to many in true repentance and faith, the gift of Your own Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Send Your Spirit mightily especially upon those called to preach, proclaim, and teach Your life-giving Word. Guide all pastors, teachers, and servants of the Church to be faithful in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: To all who bear the authority of government in our land, give Your blessing, that tranquility and peace rule our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: When suffering for Your truth comes our way, remind us of the certain victory that is ours by our Baptism into Christ. Give us the vision of Your mercy and grace, that we endure any opposition to the true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special petitions) Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

(v 1, 2, 3)

[Charles Wesley / Roland Prichard. Public Domain]

Love divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

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Serving Us Today

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singers ... Mark Ganschow, Linda Meissner, Willert Family