

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 9, 2021



Our world is filled with many who feel unloved and overlooked. To love one another is to abide in the love of Christ who first loved us. Without his love we are incapable of loving one another; but with his love we show the world what love really is: obedience to the Lord, a sacrificial existence, a sharing of all things good and right. The love of Christ overcomes the shallow, selfish, fleeting ways of the world.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and give thanks to God in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MUSICAL PRELUDE - MUSICIAN: KIMBERLY BAZEMORE

HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING TWO

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*Stand, Spoken*)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN "BLESSED ASSURANCE"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, wash'd in His blood. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight:
Angels descending bring from above, Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blest:
Watching and waiting, looking above, Fill'd with His goodness, lost in His love. *Refrain*

Refrain: **This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long;**
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Saviour all the day long.

KYRIE (*Sung*)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung*)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Sung*)

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

FIRST READING — ACTS 10:34-48 (*Sit*)

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

SECOND READING — 1 JOHN 5:1-8

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA VERSE (*Stand, Sung*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES – JOHN 15:9-17 (*Sung*)

P: The Holy Gospel from St. John chapter 15. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE (Sit)

HYMN "FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN" WOV #692:1-2, 3ALT (Stand)

**For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
To you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks you wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your pow'r to save.**

**We sing of Mary, Mother, fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore the Christ, our brother, who came to save our race.
May we, with her, surrender ourselves to your command
And lay upon your altar our gifts of heart and hand.**

**For mother-love we bless you, it teaches of your own;
By sacrificial service the seeds of love are sown.
Our children and our families are blessed to have such care:
Therefore we bless our mothers and lift our grateful prayer.**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE PEACE (Spoken)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

OFFERING HYMN (Sung)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father / **C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Sung*)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (*Sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING, INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night he was betrayed...Do this in remembrance of me. **All: Our Father, who art in heaven...**

AGNUS DEI (*Sung*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT (*Sit*)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Stand, Sung*)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

C: Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN: "HE LEADETH ME" LBW #501

He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought! Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where're I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,

By waters calm, o'er troubled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine;

Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, When by the grace the vict'ry's won,

E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain: **He leadeth me, he leadeth me, By his own hand he leadeth me.**

His faithful foll'wer I would be, For by his hand he leadeth me.

P: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE — MUSICIAN: KIMBERLY BAZEMORE