

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 14, 2023



The theme of following Christ in truth and love abounds on this Sunday. Paul is faced with foreign gods, Peter teaches that suffering is bound to come, and Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them the Holy Spirit to accompany them as they continue his work in the world God loves. Obedience to the Lord's commands means nothing less than the sacrificial love showed the world on the cross.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

- ◆ 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 return our thanks 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.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE TWO

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KIMBERLY BAZEMORE

MUSICAL PRELUDE - KIMBERLY BAZEMORE

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*Spoken*)

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

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. **Amen**

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.

Most merciful God, **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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN "COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING" LBW # 522

▲ KYRIE (*Spoken*)

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

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

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung*)

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

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 (*Spoken*)

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

Let us pray. Gracious God, in the sacrament of Baptism, you bless us with the presence of your Son as our advocate, dwelling in us as the Spirit of truth. **Grant that we may treasure this gift above all else, following Christ in obedience and humility; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING — ACTS 17:16-31 (*Pew Bible, p. 1101*)

▼ SECOND READING — 1 PETER 3:13-22 (*Pew Bible, p. 1205*)

▼ KCJAM & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (*Sung*)

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

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 14:15-21 (*Sung, Pew Bible, p. 1071*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

▼ MESSAGE PASTOR ROD STEPHENSON

▲ HYMN "CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER" LBW # 474

▲ NICENE CREED (*Spoken*)

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

▼ CHOIR ANTHEM - "PRECIOUS MEMORIES"

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Spoken*)

▲ THE PEACE (*Spoken*)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **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*)

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **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 (*Spoken*)

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

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

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS (*Sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven 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*)

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. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

(Those who receive the Lord's Supper at their home congregation are welcome to join with us today.)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*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 (*Spoken*)

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (*Spoken*)

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. **Amen**

▲ HYMN: "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE" LBW # 406

DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE