

Family Worship for the Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2020

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

L: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. **Amen.**

L: Let us make our confession to God. **Almighty, God, merciful Father, I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

² **Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us,
and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

HYMN [Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#) (LBW #151)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, all good things can come from you alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true and direct us to accomplish what is right; **through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING - Acts 17:16-31

SECOND READING – 1 Peter 3:15-22

GOSPEL VERSE (Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can)

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

GOSPEL READING

L: The Holy Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 14:15-21

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Victory in Jesus](#)

THE 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

EASTER OFFERING *(Spoken; LBW #404, st. 3)*

L: In gratitude and humble trust we bring our lives today,

R: **to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.**

L: O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,

R: **teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Page)*

THE 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.

AARONIC BLESSING *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.

L: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you

L: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

R: **And give you peace. Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

[When Peace, Like a River](#) *(LBW #346)*

Extra

[Refresh Your Memory Tour](#) *(by Pastor Dave)*

[Jesus Christ is Risen Today](#) *(Scroll to Bottom; Accapella, 4 parts, 1 singer!)*

READINGS

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ 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. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ 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, ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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.'

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ 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."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ 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."

PRAYERS

- L: Holy Father, you do not live in temples made by man, nor do you need human hands to serve you. It is we who draw our life from you, from our first breath to our last. Keep us mindful of our need for you and grant us all that we need for life and salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Holy Father, we thank you that our church building is open again for worship. Keep safe all who are gathered there to sing your praises. Be glorified, at any time and in every place, when our hearts are lifted to you in worship in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Holy Father, continue to shake the world free of its self-worship and call all hearts to acknowledge your eternal and benevolent rule. In this time of world struggle, let your faithful people shine forth as the light of your love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Bless, O Lord, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. After the loss of their founder, may your Holy Comforter be with them and, by the power of the same Spirit, enlarge and make evermore powerful their evangelistic witness within the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for those who place themselves in harm's way to care for others: for all doctors, nurses and medical personnel, for police officers, jailers, firefighters and soldiers. As they carry out their duties to do good, keep them as the apple of your eye. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for Marcus Zeigler as he continues his battle with cancer. We pray his treatments will bring him back to health and that your grace will use this trial to bring him ever closer to you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayer for J. W. Porter. He has many health problems and needs your divine assistance. Touch him, body and soul, with grace and power that he may remain your faithful servant.
- L: Hear our prayers for Sheila Saxon as she remains in the hospital. We thank you for a good report of Izzy Wilkins and ask that you complete her healing process. And comfort the family and friends of Kathryn Wilson whom you took home this week to be with you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for Helen Zeigler and Audrey Zipperer and keep them healthy in their care facilities. Be with all our elderly who are unable to leave their homes at this time and grant them attentive care givers, supportive families and kindly neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for the Davis family mourning the loss of their son and be their strength and comfort in the midst of their shock and pain. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- L: Hear our prayers for the needs of others which we lift before you now in our hearts..... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
- L: We lift our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for May 17, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

JW Porter, multiple health problems, cousin of Brenda Dasher (5.17.2020)
Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.17)
Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls; 5.17)
Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z; 3.17.2020)
Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M; 5.10)
Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)
Judi Zipperer, recovering at home from a heart procedure (4.26)
Jason Patterson (friend of S. Everett; 4.19)
Betty Weathers (sister of Mary Dasher): whose daughter Tina died this past week. (4.19)
Timothy, Jackie, and Tanis Dasher: quarantined at home, Tim having tested positive for the Coronavirus. (4.12)
Dawn Cavanah: broken leg (3.12.2020)
Carroll Zittrouer: surgery (Dorothy Zipperer Son-In-Law; 3.10.2020)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)
Family of Tim Uzupan (cousin of Karen Hall; 3.4.2020)
Renea Arnsdorff, comfort in the loss of her mother and her husband (3.1.2020)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Ryland Hampton, Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Reflections on the Reformers - Pastor Mark Ryman

From the Reformer

...a true Christian says: "I believe in Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour," who gave himself for my sins, and is at God's right hand, and intercedes for me; fall I into sin, as, alas! oftentimes I do, I am sorry for it; I rise again, and am an enemy unto sin. ... But human strength and nature are not able to accomplish this true Christian faith without the Holy Spirit. It can do no more than take refuge in its own deserts.

But he that can say: "I am a child of God through Christ, who is my righteousness," and despairs not, though he be deficient in good works, which always fail us, he believes rightly. But grace is so great that it amazes a human creature, and is very difficult to be believed. Insomuch that faith gives the honor to God, that he can and will perform what he promised, namely, to make sinners righteous (Rom 4), though 'tis an exceeding hard matter to believe that God is merciful unto us for the sake of Christ.

—Martin Luther, Table Talk

Pulling It Together

Jesus laid a heavy burden upon his followers when he said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). How can they do this? They fail and fail and fail to keep his commandments; this is the curse of the law. At the end of the day therefore, if you really love him, staying true to God means coming home to him, regardless of one's performance. Like the Prodigal who has been willful, believers must embrace their new nature, having faith that God in Christ forgives "the old man" (Col 3:9 KJV) and empowers them to try again. Continuing faith is the truest indication of the changed heart—the heart that tries again because it believes in a loving Father, a faithful Son, an empowering Spirit.

The sum of the commandments is to love God with one's whole heart. Luther said this was impossible—that no one does this—and that is true, up to a point. Yet, when one fails to keep all the rest of the commandments, and then, returns to God, brokenhearted for his sin, he has kept the commandments. He has declared the love of a whole heart. "Here I am, Lord, a poor sinner. I have sinned but I dare to love you anyway. I can do no other because of your grace at work in my sick heart. I believe and will continue to believe and love you, despite my failings." If you return to God in faith, you have kept the commandments.

The Promised Helper

Find the 25 bold words from John 14:15-21 (ESV)

H B D K H S O F R F Y R Z T S
T C Q M U W X Z A S S E E H E R
L Z N W A O D X S C S T E E R
C O M M A N D M E N T S P V E
G J V R L K I I D B A L Z I H
I G O E J L V F E L E H L L T
A N Y X A E I D E H R F P E A
R E H T I E N W X S F O Y R F
C A W H I L E E U Q T R W T O
S A R G I H V L L N K A E N I T
Q P N T L A O L F H M V H M J
K W T N E M O S L A F E Q C C
E L U L O H T U R T V R R F H
E B A B I T L U E Q S N V T N
P A T S P W Y O U S P I R I T

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**.

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Safety Through the Water

Find the 38 bold words from Psalm 66:8-12, 16-20 (ESV)

D E F H H O E E G S D F V S C
R C W H U D V N D E V O I Q O
O N E T I O I A H G L Q C R M
L A C R L V E S W A T E R Y E
R D G R I H I D E D N E T A
I N T L U R S T E A D F A S T
N U T H E S T E S T E D L E B
I B S H G D H P E Y P I H S U
Q A C I V U R I R E S D E I R
U T P R L A O A N T Q E A A D
I P E L Y V L R E G W I R R E
T I E E A N E N B H K R T P N
Y L R N F C E R A E F T G O D
E S Z V O D D E T P L U O S L N
S S E L B D E T O V E R E F D

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his **praise** be heard, who has **kept our soul** among the **living** and has not let our **feet slip**. For you, O God, have **tested us**; you have **tried us** as **silver** is tried. You brought us into the **net**; you laid a **crushing burden** on our backs; you let men **ride over our heads**; we went through **fire** and through **water**; yet you have **brought us out to a place of abundance**. **Come and hear**, all you who **fear God**, and I will tell what he has **done** for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had **cherished iniquity** in my **heart**, the **Lord** would not have listened. But truly God has **listened**; he has **attended** to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my **prayer** or removed his **steadfast love** from me!

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