

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

### Introduction to the Day

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus  
Christ,  
and we are a new creation.  
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us  
bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding  
minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:  
through the earth,  
through the city,  
through every living thing.  
You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;  
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.  
You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.  
In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.  
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.  
You call us forth and send us out.  
In lush and barren places, you are with us.  
You have become our salvation.  
Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away  
every tear.  
To you, our Beginning and our End,  
our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn “Christ, Be Our Light”

#715 vs. 1,2,4,5

**Greeting** – The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Reading: Psalm 67

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,

<sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.

<sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message**

**Gospel: John 14:23-29**

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

**Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

We again find ourselves, now on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, with a pre-crucifixion Gospel text. Last week we had Jesus giving his disciples the commandment, the mandate, to love one another as he has loved them, and by that people will know that they belong to Christ.

Now, today, we move beyond that to a portion of what is known as Jesus' Final Discourse – his final message to his disciples. Last week, he told and showed them what the love that he speaks of looks like. It is a love that would have him give a meal of forgiveness to the one that would betray him. That is how we are to love. Don't just love what is easy. But, engage in the reconciliation act of unconditional love that God has loved us with.

Today, he gives them more. Today, speaking to his community of followers, whom he no doubt senses are feeling a bit of angst amid the unknown of their future without their leader, gives them his message of hope for them.

Jesus' hope for his followers is that they would keep his word. “Those who love me will keep my word, and my father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” It is Jesus' hope for them that they would remember all that they have experience and heard and live that out in the world. And, it is in that hope that he has for them, that they are to find hope. By doing what Jesus has called them to do, they will be reunited again with him.

This is his hope.

He also gives them his assurance. Again, they are likely scared, and he can most certainly see it on their faces. They are still grappling with and not yet fully understanding the reality of which he has told them. What exactly does it mean that he will be leaving them? They're unsure. They may be afraid. After all, they've been in this ministry with him for 3 years. This is the life they have known. They have followed just about anywhere he has led them. And now, he'll be gone? What next? They don't know! And he speaks into that unknown. He gives them his assurance that all will be well.

“The advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” Jesus assures them that they will not go it alone. He assures them that he is not abandoning them. Rather, an advocate will be sent to them. The Holy Spirit.

Oh, and by the way, the advocate will continue to teach them. That's right. Their learning isn't over! There is more to come! And the advocate will teach it to them. And, on top of it all, they best not think they'll be able to forget the other stuff. The things that Jesus has taught them. Those things? Those things the advocate will remind them of, just to be sure. All that Jesus has taught them and said to them, the advocate will remind them of. Yes, even those things, perhaps especially those things, about loving the unlovable and forgiving the unforgivable that Jesus taught and lived so well, the advocate – the Holy Spirit – will be sure to remind them of. Because they are important.

Finally, Jesus gives them a word of peace. The word of peace that Jesus gives is frequently a word selected by grieving families for the funerals of loved ones. And it is a word that Jesus gives to his disciples when they are likely grieving the reality of a future without him.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” If to this point you've wondered if Jesus could indeed sense the feeling in that space, you should have no further doubt. In their grief and angst he speaks directly into their core being. “Be at peace. Don't be troubled.”

The beauty of all of this, is that Jesus is speaking these words to us as well. In a world where living and loving and Christ did seems to get heavier and heavier the call to love the unlovable and forgivable becomes all the more important. Jesus knows that his followers needed this word of hope, assurance, and peace – and he knows that we need it to.

Jesus speaks these words into the gathered community that day, and into this one today.

Jesus hope for his disciples is his hope for us.

The assurance he gives his disciples is the assurance he gives us.

The peace he speaks into that room is a peace he speaks into this one.

It is a hope, assurance, and peace we don't necessarily always understand. And that is okay.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**Song of the Day**                      **“Baptized and Set Free”**                      **#453**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory Prayer

Living God,  
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together  
in your peaceable reign,  
and you welcome us all at your table.  
Reach out to us through this meal,  
and show us your wounded and risen body,  
that we may be nourished and believe  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Kathy, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob*). Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people (*especially*). Accomplish your will through their efforts. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died (*especially*) when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### Words of Institution

#### 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**

### Communion

**Prayer**

We give you thanks, generous God,  
for in this bread and cup  
we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
where hunger and thirst are no more.  
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing**

God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song****“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”**

#774

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements****Outdoor Flowers**

If you would like to donate towards the outdoor flowerpots, please note “Outdoor Flowers” on your check memo or on an envelope with your donation.