

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14th, 2023

Introduction to the Day

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Greeting – The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for Reflection

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Gathering Hymn “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

#857

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

As water is poured into the font

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and
creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us
from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

It would do us well to remember what “my commandments” Jesus is speaking of.

Just before this in John 13 is when we get the text used for Maundy Thursday, the day in which Jesus gives his disciples the mandate, the new commandment, “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another.”

Other commandments we might think of when we hear Jesus speak of the commandments are his response to the question, “which commandment is the greatest.”

To which he responds, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength...and the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself.”

That response, you could maybe argue, is Jesus analysis of the Ten Commandments, which might be another list of commandments we think of when we are Jesus speak of commandments. The two that he offers really splits the greater ten into two categories.

Love God with every fiber of your being. That is Commandments 1-3

- Have one God
- Don't take God's name in vain
- Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

Love your neighbor as yourself. That is Commandments 4-10.

- Honor your Father and Mother

- You shall not murder
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not speak ill of your neighbor even if they may be the worst person on the planet
- You shall not covet your neighbors spouse
- Or anything else that is theirs.

Jesus presses against the norm in his response to the question of commandments. People are really good at 1-3. In fact, you may argue that they hold those at higher value, however they sometimes do it at the expense of their neighbor. Jesus is often challenged because of the good that he does for others, because it occurs on the sabbath.

Jesus here gets at the heart of why we do what we do, and why we ought to do what we ought to do.

We are so good at doing things because we think they are the right thing to do. Beyond that, folks are going to see us doing them and that will make us look good, and even if they don't, God will, and that is what really matters.

But Jesus tells us if we do the good we do because we think that is what we are supposed to do to earn some eternal reward, then we are doing it wrong. We do what needs to be done because our neighbor needs us to do it.

Love God. Love neighbor. You can't have one without the other.

Now, what does this have to do with our Tomorrows? Surely, as the Son rises, so too does tomorrow come.

In the following of Jesus' commandments, there is hope and a promise. "I will ask the Father and you will be given another advocate, to be with you forever. The world will struggle with knowing God, but not you, because God abides in you."

There is that word that John loves oh so well. Abide. The Spirit, the advocate: the one who is called alongside, the helper, comforter, encourager, and intercessor, comes alongside us in this journey called life.

Beyond that, because God makes a dwelling place, a home, within us, we are called through the Holy Spirit by God in Jesus Christ, to be those things for our neighbor.

Lord knows that there will be moments when we feel we simply cannot. And that is okay. God knows there will be moments when tomorrow seems impossible.

And, it is in those moments that the Spirit, working through those very neighbors that we are called to love, intercedes, steps into our moments and our Holy Saturdays coming alongside us through those around us.

People of God, we are called to be that for our neighbor, and also, let our neighbor be that for us.

The world will tell us that God's activity goes unseen, but we will know that God is active through the love we see to and from our the neighbor we are so eagerly called to love.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Hymn of the Day "Baptized and Set Free"

#453

Baptism of Korby Allen Jasmer
Son of Kyle Jasmer and Erica Mai

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Sandy*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints (*especially*). Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread

reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine

pour us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord.

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

