
✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • MAY 14, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING
LBW #315, stanzas 1 & 2

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

WL: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

All: Amen.

WL: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

a brief silence for meditation and confession

God of life,

All: by the resurrection of Your Son You make everything new.

You have chosen us and You call us by name.

You have empowered us to share with all people the hope that is ours,

and the love that comes from You.

We have not been prepared. We have hidden in fear.

We have remained silent and failed to act.

Our hearts are slow to hear You and believe Your promises.

Forgive us, O God, and renew us to share without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WL: People of God, hear the good news!

Jesus Christ, our Savior, loves us and gave his very life for us.

He calls us by name and walks by our side.

He brings us through death to the joy of new life.

In the + name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven!

To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

All: Amen!

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING
LBW #3315, stanza 3

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray: 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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 17:16-31

R: Our first lesson on this Sixth Sunday of Easter is from the book of Acts, the seventeenth chapter.

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all

the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 PETER 3:13-22

R: Our Epistle lesson is from the first letter of St. Peter, the third chapter.

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ ALLELUIA VERSE

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 14:15-21

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord!

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever– the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE!
LBW #393

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: If we declare with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. Let us confess our Christian faith together as the people of God:

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PARISH CHOIR

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT

by Allen Pote

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE & SANCTUS

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WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

WL: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:

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

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
and CELEBRATION OF FIRST COMMUNION

SOLO

THE GREATEST LOVE by *Ken Medema*

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: Amen.

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. God of abundance, in this meal You have prepared and strengthened us with Your very life. Now send us forth in the power of Your Spirit, that we may proclaim Your redeeming love to the world, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: Amen.

✠ SENDING HYMN

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING
LBW #3315, stanza 4

✠ SENDING

WL: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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BE NOT AFRAID

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

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