



EASTER DAYS: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER!

MAY 5 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2024

ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

A “Welcome” to worshippers - whether on the first page of a printed bulletin or the first screen of a display - is pretty common in places of worship. Offering a greeting is a courteous thing to do and if it hasn’t happened, you’ll soon hear it from somebody. We like to greet people. In our thinking, you’re a blessing.

At the same time, it is interesting that John’s Gospel doesn’t tell of Jesus offering a welcome we might expect (e.g., “Hi!”; “Glad to see you.”; “Thanks for walking over.”). Instead, Jesus asks a question: “What are you looking for?” We would like to share a few thoughts to His question.

We assume we’re all here looking for the same thing: Jesus. Our understanding of worship sees this gathering as a coming together of broken people to sit at the feet of Jesus to learn from him, working at practicing Jesus-things like grace and forgiveness. We bumble that often (remember the broken-people part), but thanks to God’s Holy Spirit, we’re not like we used to be. We’re into claiming God’s loving (yes, we just made a noun a verb) for one another, knowing God more, and living into loving one another. For us, this is cradle-to-grave thinking: we don’t send our kids out of worship and we proclaim everyone is a child of God, at least until the age of 225 (no, 225 is not a typo). So, you’ll hear us laugh and you’ll hear us cry. You’ll hear us pray in the raw (whatever someone writes down, we pray) and you’ll hear us welcome everyone to Jesus’ Table. You’ll also experience us “mixing it up”. That is, while we maintain a traditional liturgical grounding, we also maintain that the worship traditions each soul brings from their past are gifts to the whole.

God-willing, we’ll be here next week and will welcome the gift of growing with you a bit more in following Jesus. “Gift”, that’s an appropriate word to end with. We believe worship is “God’s gift to us” - an offering from God to us - inviting us to be in the healing, renewing, redeeming, going-to-cross-for-us, resurrecting love of God. “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be - world without end. Amen.” What a gift!

Given to the glory of God are the flowers on the altar by Jim and Jill Hummel

Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister
Communion Servers
L.Livestream/Slides
Reader
Usher

This Week

Marie Liden
Cindy Hobbs; Carol Lowe
Ray & Nancy Stagg
Alison Lacalamita
Rick Wetherill

Next Week

Kathy Dobda
Jeff Miller; Alison
Ashley Stahurski
Diane Swartz
Dave Fearing

GATHERING

“NOW ALL . . . SINNERS WERE COMING NEAR.” (LUKE 1:15)

Prelude

Welcome

Easter Proclamation of New Life

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the undefeated love of God, and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit be with you!

C: And also with you!

A: We are

C: Easter people!

P: Who have been to the tomb and found it empty!

C: We are Easter people!

A: To the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we belong!

A: With the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we live now and forever within God's resurrecting love!

A: By the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we are entrusted with his authority to tell of forgiveness and new life!

P: Easter people need forgiveness? You have something to confess?

C: Yes, there have been parts of my life this week - outside and inside - that didn't look much like Easter. I'm struggling to see the risen Christ in other people. Truthfully, I'm pretty good at seeing - and telling - what's wrong in other people: I blame; I label; I condemn. I need to mature in how to discern right and wrong while not becoming wrong in doing so. I want to be like Jesus whose words have saved me. I want the newness of Jesus' risen life and love and living to flow through me. I'm blessed; I want to bless.

P: Easter people, God's power raised Jesus from the dead . . . correct?

(If you believe so, proclaim so with your own heartfelt word choice.)

God's Word is more powerful than your mistakes; your self-loathing. God's Word is: You're forgiven. God's Word is truth - your feelings are not. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you are offered a relationship that is able to embrace (not excuse) your sinfulness and transform how you are broken into grace. Sin matters; yes, but grace matters more. God's grace is not a cheap/ excuse anything grace; rather, costly grace (an energy-demanding kind of grace) offering God's resurrecting power to help you wrestle with, "What can I do differently next time?"

Remember, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed.**

P: We get to live resurrected, now! **Alleluia!**

Hymn

In Christ There is No East or West

ELW #650

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

A: We pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

“YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN CLEANSED BY THE WORLD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU.” (JOHN 15:1)

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God! Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 98

As we pray the psalm today, please pray the bolded lines.

¹Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O Lord, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Amen

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God! Word of Life!
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

The refrain to *Celtic Alleluia* (1 time)

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading**John 15:9-17**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

P: The Gospel Reading for this 6th Sunday of Easter is from John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

Young Christian’s Time**Homily****Hymn of the Day****Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds****ELW #367****Nicene Creed**

A: The cross of Christ is where the resurrecting God of Easter meets us. With confidence we proclaim the way of grace - the way of God for us - using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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,
 who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition concludes with, "Resurrecting God" and the congregation responds,
 "raise us up."*

MEAL

[JESUS] HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.” (LUKE 24:35)

Offertory

Offering Prayer

A: God of love,

You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

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Proper preface for Easter

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues,
 using an appropriate form not printed in the hymnal*

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

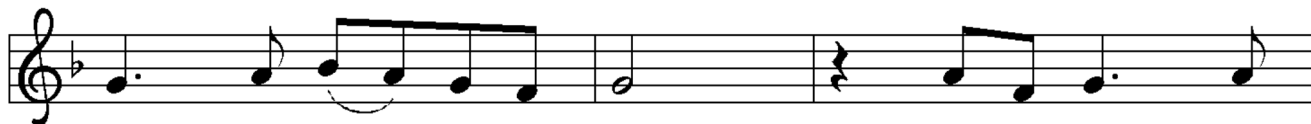
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever.
 Amen.**

Distribution of Communion***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Blessing after Communion**Prayer after Communion**

A: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

God of life! God of love! God of living! Keep stirring in us your resurrecting power given in this bread and wine. You are setting us side-by-side with Mary, announcing, "We have seen the Lord!" Yes, we have! Now, grant anew that the world may see Jesus' love being shared among us and through us as Jesus grabs hold of us and we hang on for the ride.

C: Lead on, O Risen Lord!

SENDING

“I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THIS FOLD.
I MUST BRING THEM ALSO.” (JOHN 10:16)

Blessing

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW #836

Dismissal

A: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

C: Alleluia!

Postlude

Acknowledgments:

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