
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
May 9, 2021

Welcome: Whatever your background and however you have come to be here, we welcome you. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's peace this morning. If you're new to our community, or if you have questions or other needs, please ask. There's no such thing as a stupid question. We've all been new at some point, and as the old adage goes, "we're all just walking each other home" one step at a time.

About Our Worship: This service may look and feel different than that which you have previously experienced.

As Christians in the Episcopal (episcopal=church with bishops) tradition, our worship is rooted in Holy Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which—for centuries—has united Christians all over the world in a common language of prayer and worship. These prayers have been used for hundreds of years by people all over the world, and are still used today. The hope of finding ourselves in the midst of this ancient tradition is that we might both learn from those who have come before, and add our own voices to the heavenly chorus. Our liturgy (the work of the people in worship) helps us when our words fail, ensures that we hear a thorough account of God's Word, and invites us to add our own voices and experience to God's story." The liturgy makes worship something the whole community does, not just the minister up front. Who we are and what we bring is enough because we are assured that God delights in our worship! You will find some people kneeling, bowing, and making the sign of the cross as expressions of devotion and blessing. This is neither requisite nor uniform, and we invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

As an act of care for yourself and all those gathered, please maintain appropriate physical distance at all times. Masks must be worn by all those above the age of two. We will not be passing an offering plate, though there is an offering box available for use on the Welcome Table.

OPENING HYMN

All creatures of our God and King

vv. 1,4



- 1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 * 2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 * 3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 * 6 And e - ven you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant
People

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God of all creation.

God has given us new life and hope. God has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as God's own.

God has brought us out of darkness. God has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Officiant
People

Let us pray. Almighty God

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Antiphon



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

I blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]

Final Antiphon



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel; send us out in the power of the same Spirit to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

THE EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

Frank Pilato (*Zoom*)
Sewell Truitte (*Outdoor*)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 98

Susan Parody (*Zoom*)
Ife Frierson (*Outdoor*)

- 1 Sing a new song to God, *
 who has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm *
 you have won for yourself the victory.**
- 3 You have made known your victory; *
 your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to God, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to God with the harp, *
 with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 **With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
 shout with joy before God who reigns in majesty.**

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

**9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before God,
who will come to judge the earth.**

10 God shall he judge the world in righteousness*
and the peoples with equity.

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 15:9-17

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Deacon Steve Seely

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed, the Church's central statement of faith, emerged out of the first four councils of the Church in the 4th century in response to controversies about Jesus' divinity. The Latin root of the phrase "we believe" (credo) means to "give one's heart." The creed is our way of affirming who is deserving of our heart amidst fear and doubt. The term apostolic refers to the historic succession of the apostles (original leaders of the early church) through our bishops. The term "catholic" refers to the universal church throughout the world.

Officiant Let us affirm our faith in the One, holy, and living God:
All **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 worshiped 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 THE PEOPLE

Karen Hunter (Zoom)
Terrance Frierson (Outdoor)

Intercessor

We pray for your faithful people and our leaders, that your love may be the foundation of their common lives and at the heart of their ministry. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg and Iglesia La Ascención; Church of the Ascension, Silver Spring; Church of the Ascension,

Lexington Park; and Ascension Day. Pray for all mothers and those who have been as mothers to us.

Teach us to abide in your love.

We pray for your world filled with creatures and spectacular plant life and grandeur beyond words.

Teach us to care for it with love.

We pray for the peoples of the world and honor them as those you have made and cherish.

Teach us to reach out to them with respect and love.

We pray for healing for those among us who are ailing, aching, or anxious: **Mother Maria, Sewell, Cheryl, Stephanie, Barbara, Brooke, Joan, Gail, Re-Gathering Team, Sally, Donna, Diane, Jack, Joyce, Rodgers, Shauna, Margaret, Tom, George, Rev. Larry, Mary Anne, Jim, Sheila, Carly, Art, Bob, and Cora.**

Teach us to respond to their needs with love.

We pray for those who are at the end of their earthly lives, and for those who have recently entered eternal life.

Teach us to remember them with love.

Uphold us by the riches of your grace, loving God. May your lessons of love continue to inspire and guide us as we move through this world and into the next.

Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MILESTONE BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

HOLY THANKSGIVING

Officiant Though we cannot be together in person to celebrate Holy Communion, God's presence is with us. Let us pray in gratitude and trust for the Spirit flowing through this gathering:

People **God of Love, we thank you for bringing us together in this place, on this day to honor and to celebrate you and your People, the living, loving Body of Christ. Jesus told his disciples, "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Bless this gathering as a sacramental rite, a visible sign of your love for us, and our love for one another. Even in the absence of the bread and the wine, feed and fill us with your Son Jesus Christ. In faith and thanksgiving, we pray. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

vv. 1,4

1. Shall we ga - ther at the ri - ver, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; _____
2. On the mar - gin of the ri - ver, Wa - shing up its sil - ver spray; _____
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing ri - ver, Lay we ev' - ry bur - den down; _____
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing ri - ver, Soon our pil - gri - mage will cease; _____

With its cry - stal tide for - e - ver Flo - wing by the throne of God?
 We will walk and wor - ship e - ver, All the hap - py gol - den day.
 Grace our spi - rits will de - li - ver, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
 Soon our hap - py hearts will qui - ver With the me - lo - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll ga - ther at the ri - ver, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful ri - ver;

Ga - ther with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

Held

THIS WEEK

Questions for Reflection

In our Gospel lesson this week, Jesus speaks of his extreme love for us, calls us his friends, and says that he makes known to us everything that he hears from God. How does thinking of Christ as our friend and lover—or Lord and Master—affect our daily living?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, I begin today breathing in your love for me, for others, and for the world. Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things you are doing around and within me today. Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus and his confidence in me. Maintain in my heart the image of myself as a tree, bearing the fruit of Christ's love everywhere I go today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, you are both judge and friend. Even as I review my day, I give it over to you. I let go of the good, the bad, and the in-between, trusting in your care for me. I am content this night to abide in your love. I breathe in your joy and your peace. Whatever I need, I ask of you in Jesus' name. Amen.

PERMISSIONS

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