

Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Grace Lutheran, Franklin
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Hermitage
Holy Trinity Lutheran, Greenville

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

Service of the Word

Significance of 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Hymn Variation on *Ellacombe*

(et al)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for
the gift of baptism.

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

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and
aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin
and raises us up to new life.

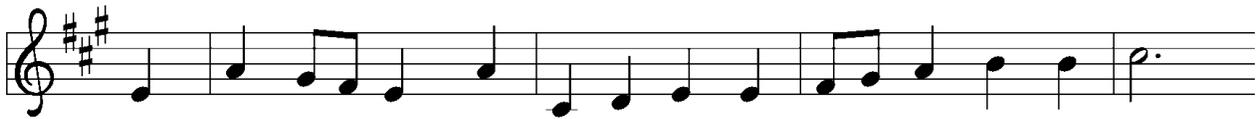
Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
 into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears
 and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy 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.

Opening Hymn

The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Easter Dialogue

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We are illumined by the brightness of his rising.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Death has no more dominion over us.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Word

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts:

22Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he

is not far from each one of us. 28For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:8-20

(The Psalm will be spoken in unison.)

- 8 Bless 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.**
- 10 For 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.**
- 12 You 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 –**
- 14 those 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.**
- 16 Come 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.**
- 18 If 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.**
- 20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.**

A reading from 1 Peter:

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

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.

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This 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. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They 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.

Hymn of the Day

Loving Spirit



1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with-in your own,
3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern-ing eye,
4 Friend and lov - er, in your close-ness I am known and held and blessed:
5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
hoist me up up - on your shoul-der, let me see the world from high.
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres-ence I may rest.
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Nicene Creed

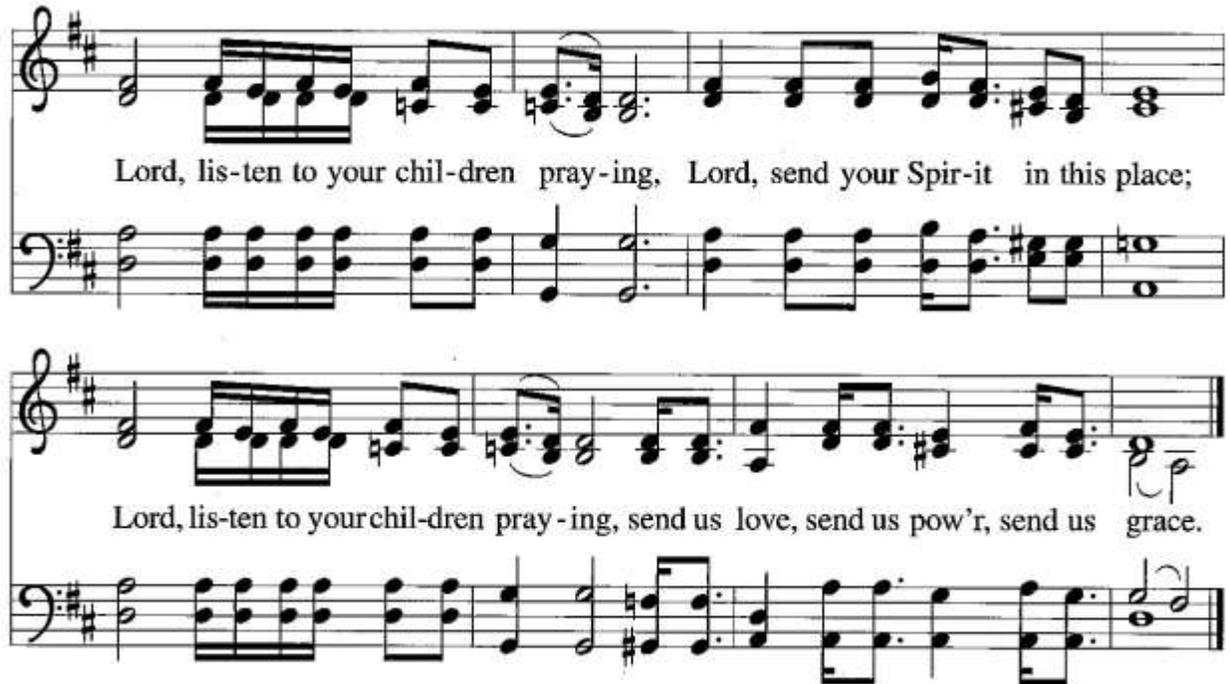
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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 is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. **Sung response.**



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

(Brief silence)

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. We pray for those who lead: our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, church council members, musicians, teachers, committee members and volunteers. Send your church into the world to share the story of your love. **Sung response**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Help us to keep Pymatuning Lake and Lake Erie, as well as our streams and rivers, healthy. **Sung response**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Remind us how we are connected, one to another. **Sung response**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way. In this time of pandemic, we pray for those who are sick, those who are caregivers, those who are afraid, those who have lost their jobs or are worried about their positions, those who are experiencing loneliness in isolation. **Sung response**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. **Sung response**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially members of our congregations who have recently died: Jan, Charlie, Geraldine, Alice, Robert, John and John. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. **Sung response**

Are there others for whom we should pray?

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Announcements

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Postlude

Hymn Variation on *Nun Danket Alle Gott* (Manz)

+ + + + + + + + + +

Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Pastor Judy Lamb, Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin
Pastor Gary Nelson, Hermitage
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris, retired, Mercyhurst University
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Please Pray For

Only first names are being used for privacy.

Please note that permission is needed to add anyone to the prayer list.

Health and Healing:

Belle
Dan
Dillon
Jan
Jennifer
Jim
Joe
Judy
Kate
Ken
Patty
Paul
Rick
Ron

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Barb
Charlie
Jan



In Military Service

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas R McQuiston, US Air Force, Middle East
Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces