

# The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023



## THE ENTRANCE RITE

*(Please stand if you are able)*

P: ALLELUIA! Christ is risen!

**C: HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.

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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

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.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN (NEXT PAGE):**

# LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy  
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in  
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in

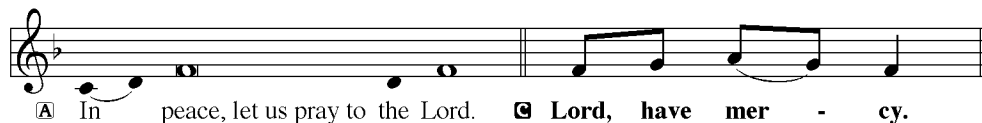
bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

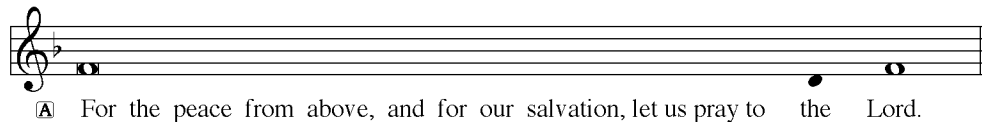
## GREETING

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.**

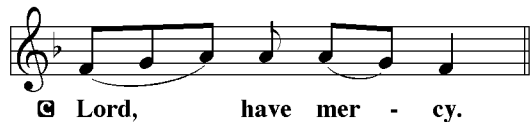
## KYRIE



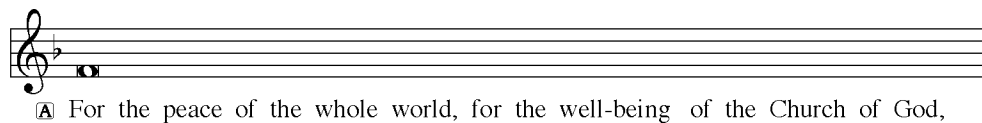
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



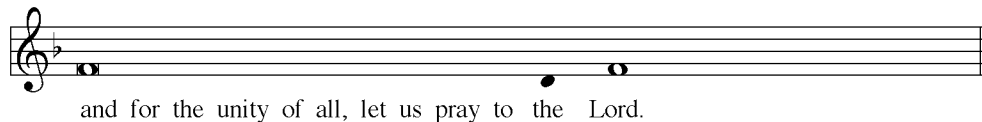
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



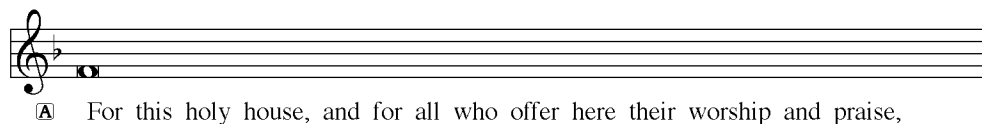
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



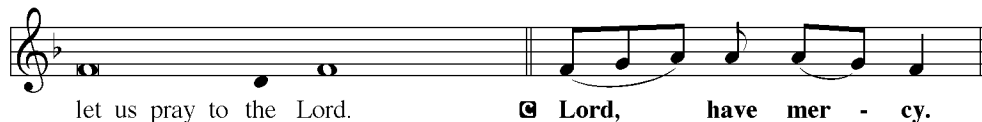
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



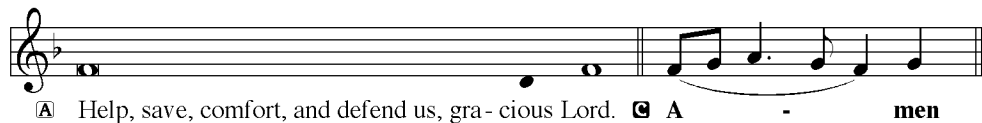
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

# HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ① Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ② Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ③ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ④ For the Lamb who was  
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**The Lord be with you / And also with you / 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**

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For 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. <sup>24</sup>The 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, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From 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, <sup>27</sup>so 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. <sup>28</sup>For '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.'

<sup>29</sup>Since 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. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because 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 (Read responsively by whole verse)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter: 3:13-22**

**13** 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.**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: John 14:15-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] **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. 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 – REV. DERRICK FALLON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Come Down, O Love Divine**

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess his grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes his dwell - ing.



## **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. 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. 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.**

## **CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST**

### **PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)**

**OFFERTORY, THEN OFFERTORY HYMN: LET THE VINEYARDS (NEXT PAGE)**

☩ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING 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.**

## 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 him thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **FRACTION**

### **LAMB OF GOD (NEXT PAGE)**

☩ 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.  
 The bread that we share is the Body of Christ.  
 The cup that we share is the Blood of Christ.

**(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)**

### COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:

☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
 He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove



1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and  
2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us  
3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us  
4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of



com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian  
know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in  
from his pas - tures stray; lead us to ho - li -  
joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -



and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.  
ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.  
ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God.  
ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

## BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen one.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!**