

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 16, 2020

5:30 pm

A watercolor illustration depicting a sunrise over a field. The sky is painted with soft washes of blue, pink, and red, transitioning into a bright yellow sun. The foreground shows a green field with vertical brushstrokes representing grass. On the right side, there is a dark, rounded shape representing a tomb, with a white cloth inside, symbolizing the resurrection.

*Christ
Risen*

Evening Prayer: Rite Two

Opening Hymn

Come Down O Love Divine

Hymnal #516

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?)

tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt.

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 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;
shall far out - pass the power 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,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

The officiant begins the service with the following sentence of Scripture

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People ***O Lord, make haste to help us.***

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 17:22-31

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 66:7-18 *Jubilate Deo*

- ⁷Bless our God, you peoples; ***
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
- ⁸Who holds our souls in life, ***
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- ⁹For you, O God, have proved us; ***
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- ¹⁰You brought us into the snare; ***
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- ¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;**
*we went through fire and water; **
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- ¹²I will enter your house with burnt-offerings**
*and will pay you my vows, **
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- ¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts**
*with the smoke of rams; **
I will give you oxen and goats.
- ¹⁴Come and listen, all you who fear God, ***
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- ¹⁵I called out to him with my mouth, ***
and his praise was on my tongue.
- ¹⁶If I had found evil in my heart, ***
the Lord would not have heard me;
- ¹⁷But in truth God has heard me; ***
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- ¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, ***
nor withheld his love from me.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: ****
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the First letter of Peter

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

A Reading from John

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to his disciples] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



Sermon

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks

Hymnal #178

Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

Descant

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

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

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

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

1-4

Final Ending

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of crea - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Repeat Refrain

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

The Apostle's Creed

Officiant and people together, all standing

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.***

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.***

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

***He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

***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,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. ***And grant us your salvation.***
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. ***Let your people sing with joy.***
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. ***For only in you can we live in safety.***
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. ***Your saving health among all nations.***
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. ***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. ***And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.***

A Collect for Saturdays

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

A Collect for Protection

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn

One Bread, One Body

St. Thomas Choirs

Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; The Didache 9

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
One Lord. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
One Lord. (Refrain)

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.
One Lord. (Refrain)

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.***

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. ***Amen.*** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.*** *Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesu for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

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