

The Sixth Sunday after Easter

May 13, 2023 5:30pm

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Hymn

All creatures of our God and King (vs. 1-3)

Hymnal #400

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams,

O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Great rushing winds and breezes soft, you clouds that ride the heavens aloft, O praise him, Alleluia!

Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice, stars nightly shining, find a voice,

Swift flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear, Alleluia, alleluia!

Fire, so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light,

St. Francis of Assisi (1882-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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.**

The Lessons

The First Reading: *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.”

The Psalm: Psalm 66:7-18

⁷*Bless our God, you peoples; * make the voice of his praise to be heard,*

⁸*Who holds our souls in life, * and will not allow our feet to slip.*

⁹*For you, O God, have proved us; * you have tried us just as silver is tried.*

¹⁰*You brought us into the snare; * you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.*

¹¹*You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.*

¹²*I 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.*

¹³*I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; * I will give you oxen and goats.*

¹⁴*Come and listen, all you who fear God, * and I will tell you what he has done for me.*

¹⁵*I called out to him with my mouth, * and his praise was on my tongue.*

¹⁶*If I had found evil in my heart, * the Lord would not have heard me;*

¹⁷*But in truth God has heard me; * he has attended to the voice of my prayer.*

¹⁸*Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, * nor withheld his love from me.*

The Second Reading: 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.

The Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said,] 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.”

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Presider or deacon

... we pray to Lord.

Response **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn

All things bright and beautiful

Hymnal #405

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky,

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father. . .

. . .Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption. . .

. . .Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

Now the green blade rises

Hymnal #204

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Refrain: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: (refrain)

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: (refrain)

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: (refrain)

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958), alt.

Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Easter Blessing

Closing Music

As those of old their first fruits brought (vs. 1, 3)

Hymnal #705

As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield; so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of farm and market, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.

With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with all humanity. O thou who gavest us thyself in Jesus Christ thy Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Frank von Christierson (1900-1996), alt.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Postlude



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