

## Divine Service - Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...”* (Heb. 12:28)

### Opening Hymn: 469 ss. 1-6

1 “Christ the Lord is risen today!”

Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

2 Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo! Our Sun's e-clipse is o'er;  
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

4 Lives again our glorious King!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save;  
Where thy victory, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led;  
Foll'wing our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise;  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!  
Thee we greet triumphant now:  
Hail the Resurrection, Thou!

### Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

### Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CONG..... Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

### Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

## The Introit of the Day

Ps. 119:105; 89-93

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.  
By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.  
If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.  
I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

## The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.  
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*  
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation  
let us pray to the LORD.  
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*  
PASTOR: 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.  
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*  
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here  
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.  
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*  
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious  
LORD.  
CONG..... *Amen.*

## Choir: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation  
springing, And with united heart and voice And holy rapture  
singing, Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right  
arm the vict'ry won; What price our ransom cost Him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded  
darkly o'er me. Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my  
mother bore me. But daily deeper still I fell; My life became  
a living hell, So firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or  
merit gaining; Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead  
to all good remaining. My fears increased till sheer despair  
Left only death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suffered.

4 But God had seen my wretched state Before the  
world's foundation, And mindful of His mercies great, He  
planned for my salvation. He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part But gave His dearest  
treasure.

5 God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have  
compassion. Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to  
all salvation. From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter  
death for them that they May live with You forever."

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin  
mother; And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my  
brother. His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form,  
like mine, He wore To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and  
castle. Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and  
wrestle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am  
you may remain; The foe shall not divide us.

8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My  
life bereaving, All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast  
and believing. Life will from death the vict'ry win; My  
innocence shall bear your sin, And you are blest forever.

9 "Now to My Father I depart, From earth to heav'n  
ascending, And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, The Holy Spirit

sending; In trouble He will comfort you And teach you always to be true And into truth shall guide you.

10 "What I on earth have done and taught, Guide all your life and teaching; So shall the kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching. But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav'nly treasure should destroy; This final word I leave you."

**PASTOR: Collect of the Day.**

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Old Testament Reading:** Acts 17:16-31

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"

20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."

21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing

something new.

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

28 for

"'In him we live and move and have our being';  
as even some of your own poets have said,

"'For we are indeed his offspring.'"

29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**Gradual:**

adapt. from Matt 28:7; Heb 2:7; Ps 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
he has put all things under his feet.

**The Epistle:** I Peter 3:13-22

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 1

7 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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 having been subjected to him.

**Verse:**

Rom 6:9; Jn 16:33b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I

have overcome the world. Alleluia

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

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**The Sermon Hymn:** 821 ss. 1-5

1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne:  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood!"

2 Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now:  
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise, 'I am with you evermore'?

3 Alleluia! bread of heaven, here on earth our food,  
our stay: Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea,  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
Here on earth both priest and victim in the

eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia, sing to Jesus! his the sceptre, his the throne:  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone. Hear the songs  
of holy Zion thunder like a mighty flood: 'Jesus out of every  
nation has redeemed us by his blood!'

**The Sermon:** "He Is Near Us; Faith Believes!" John 14:15-21

**The Post-Sermon Hymn:** 597 ss. 1-5

1 Water, blood, and Spirit crying,  
By their witness testifying  
To the One whose death-defying  
Life has come, with life for all.

2 In a wat'ry grave are buried  
All our sins that Jesus carried;  
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried  
Us across death's raging flood.

3 Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,  
Past the scowl of death He leads us;  
Spreads a table where He feeds us  
With His body and His blood.

4 Though around us death is seething,  
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,  
By His Spirit life is breathing  
Through the living, active Word.

5 Spirit, water, blood entreating,  
Working faith and its completing  
In the One whose death-defeating  
Life has come, with life for all.

**The Apostles' Creed** (We Confess Together)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and

earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was  
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was  
buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again  
from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the  
holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness  
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

**The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer**

**The Collect for the Word**

**PASTOR:** Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy  
Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant  
that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark,  
learn, and inwardly digest them, that by  
patience and comfort of Your holy Word we  
may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed  
hope of everlasting life, which You have given us  
in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,  
world without end.

**CONG:** Amen.

**The Benediction**

**PASTOR:** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD  
make His face shine on you and be gracious to  
you. The LORD look upon you with favor and †  
give you peace.

**CONG:** Amen.