

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Introduction to the day

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

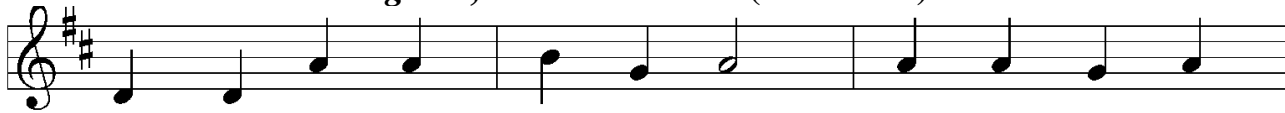
Today – 9:30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday – 6:30pm Men's Bible Study

Wednesday – 9:30am Morning Prayer

Thursday – 6:30pm Women's Bible Study

GATHERING SONG *Sing Out, Earth and Skies* (W&P 126)



1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
 2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with
 3 Come, O God of flash - ing light: twin - kling star and
 4 Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
 5 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our

Leader



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
 righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:
 burn - ing sun; God of day and God of night:
 on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
 hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:

All



in the glo - ry of your Son.
 may our lives your love con - fess.
 in your light we all are one.
 God of sor - row, God of mirth.
 bring us all to life in you.

Refrain



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who



loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!



Dance to the life a - round you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸**Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from 1 John.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *Touch That Soothes and Heals: See My Hands and Feet* (ACS 939)



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth’s
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
 peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for*) God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,
we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food.
In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate,
the body of Christ in the world.
Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal,
to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ,
to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace and with the courage of faith.
Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

SENDING SONG *O God beyond All Praising* (WOV 797)

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay
For we can only wonder at the every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end
We lift our heart before you and wait upon your Word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows be fill'd with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.