



May 14, 2023

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

♪ Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

~Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

♪ Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. ~Jesus is...

♪ Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. ~Jesus is...

♪ Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. ~Jesus is...

♪ City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, Saints and arch-angels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! ~Jesus is....

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children.

We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.

Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

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First Reading

Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So 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. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For 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. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that 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, ²⁸for

“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.”

²⁹Being 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. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but 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, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because 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. ²¹Baptism, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

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The Prayer *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Ever-living God, in You we live and move and have our being. We praise and thank You for creating us in Your image and for restoring our sin-stained selves to that image through the waters of Baptism. Lead and guide us by Your Spirit, as we live out our days so that others may come to know who You are; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 14:15–21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even 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. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”

- ♪ Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sacrificed, O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly; Let alleluias leap:
~Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again Sing Alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!
- ♪ Let all our lives now celebrate The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie. ~Alleluia!...
- ♪ Let all our deeds, unanimous, Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us, The Father's living Word. ~Alleluia!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 473-Text: Martin H. Franzmann 1907-76; Tune: Walter L. Pelz b.1926
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Proclamation of the Word

“Who Do People See in You?”

John 14:15–21

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast”

- ♪ Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.
- ♪ Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.
- ♪ O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 655-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;
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Postlude