

The Divine Service

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

AS WE GATHER

The seven Sundays of Easter celebrate the greatest of all victories—the defeat of sin, death, and the devil by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The theme of victory fills each of the Sundays of Easter and radiates out the joy of the first Easter morning week by week. One Easter hymnwriter exhorts: “Let hymns of praise His triumph tell” (LSB 464:3). There is so much to be sung and to be told about the victory of Jesus, our Lord—and we are the ones gifted with the opportunity to do the singing and the telling in our generation.

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome/Theme of the Day

Remembrance of Baptism

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed by God, who chose us in Christ, let us come to the God of mercy.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P Faithful and living God,

C **We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P In this is love, not that we have loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to atone for our sins. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C Amen.

Processional Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia" LBS 463 verses 1,3,4



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet, Al - le - lu - ia!
Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

16While 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 babbling 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 hold of 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, in the hope that they might 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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 regard 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; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Processional "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Congregation sings refrain; cantor sings Easter verse.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Holy Gospel

John 14:15-17

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵[Jesus said:] "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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Anthem

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Lezley Hsiao, Solo

Sermon

"Orphans, Adopted by God Himself"

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostle's Creed

G 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.

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "In the name of the risen Lord."

*Congregation responds, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Gathering of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

- P** Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

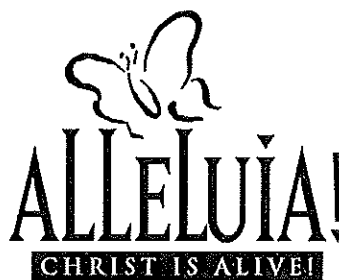
The Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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 forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

Easter Acclamation

- P** Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** Christ indeed has been raised from the dead.
- C** **Christ is risen!**
- P** He is risen indeed!
- C** **Alleluia!**



Thank you for worshiping with us today. We hope and pray you had a chance to see Christ in a very personal and real way. If you have a prayer request or would like to talk to the pastor or one of our Stephen Ministers contact the church office at 954-384-9096 or by email at office@stpaulweston.org.

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.