



May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

Opening Hymn

For the beauty of the earth



For the beauty of the earth,
For the joy of human love,
For your church, that ev - er - more
For your - self, best Gift Di - vine!

For the glo - ry
Broth - er, sis - ter,
Lifts its ho - ly
To this world so



of the skies, For the love which from our birth
par - ent, child, Friends on earth, and friends a - bove;
hands a - bove, Off - 'ring up on ev - 'ry shore
free - ly giv'n; Word In - car - nate, God's de - sign,



O - ver and a - round us lies:
For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
Its pure sac - ri - fice of love:
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.



The Word of God

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ has risen.

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you with 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 First Lesson

Acts 10: 44-48

Introduction to the Lesson

While Peter is speaking to the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and they begin speaking in tongues and praising God. His response is to have them baptized.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So 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

*The Psalm will be said responsively by whole verse,
alternating each verse with the Lector who reads first*

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Introduction to the Lesson

We are able to show our love for the Lord by keeping his commandments. Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ are counted as offspring of God.

A reading from the First Letter of John:

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

What a friend we have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

1. What a priv - i - ledge to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in Prayer.

1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 2. Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

The Holy Gospel

John 15: 9-17

Introduction to the Lesson

Jesus tells of his love for the disciples. They are enjoined to share that love and be willing to lay down their lives for each other.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

Our Lord lives, for death has no more power over him. And so we, God's holy church, proclaim the resurrection, saying, Christ has risen!

The Lord has risen indeed.

God of life, in gratitude and great joy, we thank you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. We especially give thanks for (*Intercessions of thanksgiving offered here*). On this day, give us hope, for Christ has risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all our brothers and sisters, that death may have no more power over us. We especially pray for those in need of healing (*Intercessions of healing offered here*) For Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears (*Intercessions for the departed offered here*). For Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world. For Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

Celebrant: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

(The Confession is omitted during the Easter season.)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory Hymn

Blessed Assurance



1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! _____ O what a
2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light, _____ Vi - sions of
3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, _____ I in my

1. fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! _____ Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; _____ An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; _____ Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, _____ Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. _____
2. bove _____ Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. _____
3. bove, _____ Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. _____

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, _____ Prais - ing my

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A *Also found on page 361 in The Book of Common Prayer*

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us the everlasting life. 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 is said:

*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: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins, Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." 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, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

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.

*The celebrant receives communion.
The people receive after the dismissal.*

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Blessing and the Dismissal

Celebrant: Now go forth to live boldly, as if death has no power over you, because it does not. Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

Recessional

Jesus shall reign

The Mission of Holy Comforter

Love God, Love Others

Serve God, Serve Others

Recessional

Jesus shall reign

1 Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun doth his suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners



1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -



1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.



Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Jenn Frey
Reader	Alexander Saunders
Altar Guild	Karen Sheppard
Vestry Person of the Day	Pam Vanscoy
Live Streaming	Thomas Saunders
Soloist	Elizabeth Lee
Musician	Brad Green

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Pastor
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Spessert, Children's Ministry Director
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

Mailing Address: 473 Fury's Ferry Rd., Martinez, GA 30907
Telephone: (706) 210-1133 / Fax: (706) 210-4515
Web: holycomforterchurch.org