

The Liturgy of the Word
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021
Grace Episcopal Church

The Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Collect for Purity

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.**

The Song of the Spirit

(spoken by all)

Revelation 22:13-17

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *
the beginning and the end.”
Blessed are those who do God’s commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, *
and may enter the city through the gates.
“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *
with this testimony for all the churches.
“I am the root and the offspring of David, *
I am the bright morning star.”
“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *
“Come!” let each hearer reply!
Come forward, you who are thirsty, *
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you 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

Reader 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

Reader Let us read together this portion of Psalm 98.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 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.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

Reader A reading from the first book 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Where true charity and love dwell

Hymnal 606

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

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."

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. April Berends

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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 worshiped 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.

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Tallis

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor In the power of the resurrection let us pray to the Living God saying: Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the whole bright earth, lovingly created and compassionately redeemed, that it may speak again of your glory and majesty, we pray: *Silence*
O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For all peoples and all nations of the earth, that they may be transformed by mercy and live together in hope. *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For the holy church, that on this feast day which brings joy to believers, we may commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one, we pray: *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For all in authority, that they may govern with equity and justice, and work to bring life to those in the shadow of death, we pray: *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For all who seek to honor the gift of Christ's resurrected body, that we may rise up to serve a broken and hurting world. *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For all who live in poverty, sickness, loneliness and grief, that you will wipe the tears from their faces, we pray especially for Virginia, Gerry, Andrea, Jennifer, June, Al, Amy, Deborah, Ann, the Hale family, Patty, Reba, Niysah, Daniel, Valorie, Terrie, Alex, Andrea, Steve, Angela, Dwight, James and Barbara, Doris, Rebecca, J.R., Charlotte, Libby, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, Joyce, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Bren who is deployed as a nurse in the pandemic.

We pray for Alice and Ali, who are with child.

We pray for all whose homes are in peril or uprooted because of climate change, for all displaced because of hurricanes, fires or other disasters.

We pray for all who remain on the front lines of this pandemic, for all suffering from illness, those who have died, and all who grieve as a result of COVID-19. *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Intercessor For all who have died, especially Nancy Mapel, that they may share in Christ's Resurrection, redeemed and restored to everlasting life, we pray: *Silence*
 O Living God,

People **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Celebrant Faithful God, make our hearts bold with love for one another. Pour out your spirit upon all people, that we may live your justice and sing in praise the new song of your marvelous victory. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Officiant	The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. April Berends
Lectors	Diana Peterson, Nan Fortiner
Intercessor	L.B. Blackwell
Organists	John Wigal
Director of Music	David Long
Singers	James Harr, Steven Hinkle, Cynthia Johnson, David Long, Meredith Ogle, Elisabeth Schrock, Janelle Wagoner, Trevor Wagoner, John Wigal
Video	Richard Lanham, Janelle Wagoner

Announcements

Join Us for Online Worship at 9am & 10:45am Sundays

During this time of Social Distancing, we will continue to stream videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes weekend issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the video streams, you can always go back and watch later.

Clergy Outdoor Office Hours

The April Berends will be in the courtyard for outdoor office hours on Tuesday, May 11th from 8:30-10:30am. The Rev. David Burman will be there on Tuesday, May 11th from 5:00-7:00pm. As always, our priests would be happy to connect with you, either by phone or video call or socially-distanced in person. Feel free to call, text, or email April (aberends@saygrace.net) or David (dburman@saygrace.net) to set up a time to meet.

Morning Prayer and Compline

All are invited to escape from the madness and rest your mind and soul via Morning Prayer on weekdays and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., and services of Compline at 8:00 p.m. each evening. We all need reminders of essential realities that transcend the medical and political context in which we find ourselves.

Here are the links for Daily Morning Prayer and Compline:

[Weekday Morning Prayer](#)

[Weekday Compline](#)

Community Care in Anxious Times

Grace check-in team leaders are continuing to contact parishioners via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/ or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.

