

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MORNING WORSHIP
MAY 5, 2024**

Prelude

Hymn #405 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Opening Acclamation

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is Risen.
All **Christ is Risen indeed.**
 Alleluia.



Collect for Purity and Diversity

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.

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray together.

Collect of the Day

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.

First Lesson

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:44-48

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.

A period of silence follows

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

**Sing a new song to God, *
who has done marvelous things.**

**With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm, *
you have won for yourself the victory.**

**You have made known your victory; *
your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.**

**You remember your 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 God, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

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

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn, *
shout with joy before God who reigns in majesty.**

**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 God,
who will come to judge the earth.**

**God shall judge the world in righteousness *
and the peoples with equity.**

Second Lesson

A Reading from the first letter of John

1 John 5:1-6

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.

A period of silence follows

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 416 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Third Lesson

A Reading from the gospel of John

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."

A period of silence follows

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Let us stand and say together

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People¹

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion, in thought and deed, with or without words; that the people of every nation might live in unity and peace. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in this town and the entire Upper Valley Community, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, especially those we now name silently or aloud _____ that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, especially _____, rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into life as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 412 *Earth and All Stars*

¹ THE WAY OF LOVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Composed by the Reverend Allison English, Calvary Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/wol_prayers_of_the_people_final.pdf

The General Thanksgiving

BCP, p101

Let us say together

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus
for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn 400 *All Creatures of our God and King*

Announcements

Postlude

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