

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 14 at 11:00 AM

Music Prelude, Ringing of the Bell, Welcome

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 119:89-93; 119:105*

R Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

C Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

R Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

C By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

R If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

C I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

R Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

C Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Amen.

THE BAPTISM SONG *"Father Welcomes"*

Refrain: Father welcomes all His children
to His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation,
life forever has been won.

1 Little children, come to Me,
For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give,
Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

2 In the water, in the Word,
In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe
Shall be born again. *Refrain*

THE BAPTISM of Charlotte and Hudson Forys

**3 Let us daily die to sin;
Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God. Refrain**

Text Robin Mann, b. 1949; Tune: Robin Mann, b. 1949

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

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 babbler 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.”

R 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG "IN CHRIST ALONE"

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground;
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm;
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand,**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again.**

And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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(Stand)

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

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

C 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.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER

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.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S TALK

HYMN 973 THY WORD IS A LAMP

ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

Text: Amy Grant, 1960

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SERMON God's Identity Is Revealed in and Our Identity Is in Jesus Christ. Acts 17

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of
His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of
Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the
Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy
Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also
for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third
day He rose again according to the scriptures; And ascended into
heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come
again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose
kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who
proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the
Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge
one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection
of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3))

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*

C And also with you. *(Colossians 3:1)*

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *(Psalm 136)*

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying: *(prayer by pastor)*.

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. *(Isaiah 6:3)*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. *(John 1:29)*

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION are said by the pastor. *(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

P Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, (*John 1:29*)

C Have mercy on us.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. (*John 20:19*)

C And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Music during distribution

"Change My Heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;

Change my heart, O God may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;

Change my heart, O God may I be like You.

Psalms 51:10 ©1982, 1987 Mercy Publishing. CCLI #187269 RMP 50

"Amazing Love"

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;

That I, the guilty one may go free.

Chorus:

Amazing love, O what sacrifice,

The Son of God, given for me;

My debt He pays and my death He dies,

That I might live, that I might live.

And so they watched Him die, despised, rejected;

But, O the blood He shed flowed for me. *Chorus.*

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;

Come wash your guilt away, live again. *Chorus.*

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"Blessed Be the Lord, God, Almighty"

Father in heaven, how we love You;

We lift Your name in all the earth.

May Your kingdom be established in our praises

As Your people declare Your mighty works.

Blessed be the Lord, God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come;

Blessed be the Lord, God Almighty

Who reigns forevermore. *Repeat.*

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(Stand)

DISMISSAL

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

C Amen.

BENEDICTION *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His favor upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING *“HOW EXCELLENT YOUR NAME”*

O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the earth.
Your glory fills the heavens
Beyond the farthest star,
How excellent your name in all the earth.
When I think about the heavens,
The moon and all the stars,
I wonder what You ever saw in me;
But You took me and You loved me,
And You’ve given me a crown,
And now I’ll praise Your name eternally. *Repeat*

Ending:

O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the earth.
Your glory fills the heavens
Beyond the farthest star,
How excellent your name in all the earth.
How excellent your name in all the earth.

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