

# **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

## **Sunday, May 14, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

## **Open up the heavens**

We've waited for this day. We're gathered in Your Name  
Calling out to You.

Your glory like a fire, awakening desire,  
Will burn our hearts with truth.

You're the reason we're here.  
You're the reason we're singing.  
Open up the heavens. We want to see You.  
Open up the flood-gates, a mighty river,  
Flowing from Your heart,  
Filling every part of our praise.

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,  
We're looking to the sky.  
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now.  
Lord unveil our eyes.

You're the reason we're here.  
You're the reason we're singing.

Open up the heavens. We want to see You.  
Open up the flood-gates, a mighty river,  
Flowing from Your heart,  
Filling every part of our praise.

Open up the heavens. We want to see You.  
Open up the flood-gates, a mighty river,  
Flowing from Your heart,  
Filling every part of our praise.

Show us, show us Your glory.  
Show us, show us Your power.  
Show us, show us Your glory Lord.

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Show us, show us Your power.  
Show us, show us Your glory Lord.

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*"Open Up The Heavens" Words and music by James McDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard and Andi Rozier.  
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## INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me—

C: **Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."**

P: For whoever would save his life will lose it—

C: **But whoever loses his life for Jesus will find it.**

P: Therefore, I consider my life worth nothing.

C: **If only I may finish the race—**

P: And complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.

C: **The task of testifying to the gospel of God's amazing grace!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Magnificent and merciful Father,

C: **Hear my sorry story of sin and rebellion.**

P: I have grown used to my spiritual emptiness and deadness.

C: **I have grown content with my stubborn attitude and my hard heart.**

P: I have settled for something less than being Christ's passionate disciple.

C: **I have sunk deeper and deeper into sin and selfishness.**

P: My spiritual zeal and zest have dried up like a desert.

C: **I have succumbed to a mediocre life and a lackluster faith. Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on me!**

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus bled for you, Jesus died for you, Jesus lives for you and Jesus is coming for you. Jesus loves you, and Jesus forgives all your sins. In Holy Baptism, you were crucified with Christ.

C: **It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me! I now live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Heavenly Father, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord—

C: **Amen.**

## The Old Testament Reading

## Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. <sup>19</sup>The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Epistle Reading**

## **Philippians 3:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup>But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

## **Matthew 8:19-23**

<sup>19</sup>Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

<sup>20</sup>Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” <sup>21</sup>Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” <sup>22</sup>But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

<sup>23</sup>Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**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.**

## **Man of Sorrows**

Man of Sorrows, Lamb of God,  
By His own betrayed.  
The sin of man and wrath of God  
Has been on Jesus laid.

Silent as He stood accused,  
Beaten, mocked, and scorned,  
Bowing to the Father's will,  
He took a crown of thorns.

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,  
Where Your love poured out over me;  
Now my soul cries out, "It is finished!  
Praise and honor unto Thee."

Sent of Heaven, God's own Son,  
To purchase and redeem,  
And reconcile the very ones  
Who nailed Him to that tree.

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,  
Where Your love poured out over me;  
Now my soul cries out, "It is finished!

Praise and honor unto Thee."  
Now my debt is paid;  
It is paid in full  
By the precious blood  
That my Jesus spilled.  
Now the curse of sin  
Has no hold on me.  
Whom the Son sets free,  
Oh is free indeed!

Now my debt is paid;  
It is paid in full  
By the precious blood  
That my Jesus spilled.  
Now the curse of sin  
Has no hold on me.  
Whom the Son sets free,  
Oh is free indeed!

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,  
Where Your love poured out over me;  
Now my soul cries out, "It is finished!"  
Praise and honor unto Thee."

See, the stone is rolled away;  
Behold the empty tomb.  
Hallelujah, God be praised!  
He's risen from the grave!

Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,  
Where Your love poured out over me;  
Now my soul cries out, "Hallelujah!"  
Praise and honor unto Thee.  
Praise and honor unto Thee."

## **The Offering**

### **Prayer of Blessing**

**P** You have called us and empowered us for a mission to the whole world. You have gathered us as a church, washed us in grace, united us in faith and given us the Holy Spirit. We are joined to believers around the globe who offer our lives and our resources to be used in the world of Your Kingdom on earth.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for sending Your Son to die and rise again for the sins of the world. We praise and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who calls us by the Gospel, gathers us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlightens us with Your truth, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** Creator God, You have created this world and everything in it, as well as each person who lives in it. In You we live and move and have our being, and You continue to provide for our daily needs of body and life. Lead us as we steward the resources and relationships You generously give us. Guide us to see all people as Your masterpieces. Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** O Jesus, You know intimately the challenges we face and the griefs we bear in this life. Hear us as we pray for those who are hurting and grieving, [especially . . .]. Give them strength and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



Pastor: Lord God, You have placed us in a community where there are people who have never known You or who no longer are connected to Your Church. Guide us, as You guided Paul and others, to seize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope we have, doing this with gentleness and respect. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Almighty God, You are the King of all creation and the fount of all wisdom. We pray for all the world's leaders and ask that You guide them according to Your will and Your ways as they make decisions for the good of all. We especially pray for our president, vice president, governor, mayor, and all those who work in government. Watch over their lives, and guide them in the decisions they are called to make on our behalf. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Gracious God, we thank You for making us male and female and for creating families with a loving father and a mother. We grieve for those who do not experience life according to Your design and for those who experience abandonment, abuse, and neglect. We celebrate with those who experience Your love in their families.

Today, we especially remember our mothers. We remember those in whose wombs you knit us together. We remember those You have worked through to provide us comfort, wise counsel, care, and discipline throughout the different stages of our lives. We ask Your blessing on all mothers, that they experience Your love and are shaped by it in their parenting. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

**People: Amen.**

## **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 forever and ever. Amen**

## **The Invitation**

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

**C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.**

**I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.**

## **Words of Institution**

On the night He was betrayed,  
He took the bread, gave thanks, and said,  
"Take eat, my friends, this broken bread,  
this is my body for forgiveness of your sin.  
When you eat, my friends, this meal of love,  
remember me and my love for you again."

On the night He was betrayed,  
He took the cup, gave thanks, and said,  
“Take drink, my friends, this cup of wine,  
this is my blood for forgiveness of your sin.  
When you drink, my friends, this cup of love,  
remember me and my love for you again.”

**Oh, we are here, to thank You Lord,  
for the bread and wine outpoured.  
For it is Your body and Your blood  
that You so lovingly and freely give to us.  
So we praise You holy Lamb of God;  
We love You our sweet Jesus.  
We love You our sweet Jesus. We love You our sweet Jesus.**

*“On the Night” words and music by Mark Zehnder. Used by permission. CCLI#2960087.*

## **Distribution**

### **Behold The Lamb**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:  
And we remember the promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you:  
Eat and remember the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.

So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev’ry stain of sin, shed for you:  
Drink and remember He drained death’s cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond

And to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n around the table of the King.

*"Behold The Lamb" Words and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend*

## **Communion Dismissal**

**P:** Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith until life everlasting.  
Go in His peace.  
**C:** **Amen**

## **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal.  
Daily remind us of our identity in You as a newborn, chosen, priestly people called to proclaim Your excellencies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P:** Jesus says—  
**C:** **Go make disciples of all nations,**

**P:** Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** **Teaching them to obey everything that he has commanded us.**

**P:** Christ is with us always—  
**C:** **To the very end of the age!**

## **My Redeemer Lives**

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe;  
My shame He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe;  
I'll raise a banner, 'cause my Lord has conquered the grave.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe;  
My shame He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe;  
I'll raise a banner, 'cause my Lord has conquered the grave.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

You lift my burden, I'll rise with You;  
I'm dancing on this mountain top to see Your Kingdom come.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

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