

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Gratitude for Mothers

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

from Psalm 98

One: In reverent awe, we gather to worship the holy God!

All: We gather to honor and glorify God's almighty name.

One: We rejoice on our way to worship our righteous God!

All: We gather to celebrate God's power over sin and evil.

One: With thankfulness, we come to worship the faithful God!

All: We gather to sing praise to the God in whom we trust.

Hymn 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (vrs. 1)

TOPLADY

Call to Confession

from John 15:12

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one new commandment: that we love those around us the way that he has loved us. Assured of the great love of God through Jesus Christ, let us confess the ways we have fallen short of that love.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God who opens tombs,
there are times that we close ranks,
cut ourselves off, and shut our eyes
to the pain of the world.**

**At times we are so blind that we would not
even recognize Jesus if he came to us.**

**Sometimes we are completely closed
to the power of the Spirit that blows among us.**

**Forgive us for shutting our eyes
and hardening our hearts, O God.**

Make your love and forgiveness known to us.

May we receive one another with love.

**Remind us of your ways, O God,
made known to us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Our God is the God of dawn, the God of breaking open, the God of the empty tomb. Our God continues to do a new thing that is springing forth—let us open our hearts to perceive it! We are made new. We are loved. We are transformed; God is making all things new! Sisters and brothers, hear and believe this good news:

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God's Word

from Acts 10:45

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we might hear what you have to say to us today. May your desires be made clear to us, your Holy Spirit made known to us, and your grace lavished upon us; through Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷ "These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" ⁴⁸ He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Psalm Anthem Psalm 98 / Hymn 276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord

Sing to the Lord a new song

because he has done wonderful things!

His own strong hand and his own holy arm

have won the victory!

² The Lord has made his salvation widely known;

he has revealed his righteousness

in the eyes of all the nations.

³ God has remembered his loyal love

and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.

⁴ Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

Be happy!

Rejoice out loud!

Sing your praises!

⁵ Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—

with the lyre and the sound of music.
⁶ With trumpets and a horn blast,
shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!
⁷ Let the sea and everything in it roar;
the world and all its inhabitants too.
⁸ Let all the rivers clap their hands;
let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether ⁹ before the Lord
because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!
He will establish justice in the world rightly;
he will establish justice among all people fairly.

Gospel Reading John 15:9-17

⁹ “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

Affirmation of Faith

Church Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Dedicating our Gifts

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ’s love.

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;*

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Charge & Benediction

Blessing

Postlude