

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY
IN THE SEASON OF EASTER
SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
MAY 17, 2020**

Opening Hymn #292 O Jesus, Crowned with all Renown

1. O Jesus, crowned with all renown,
since thou the earth hast trod,
thou reignest and by thee come down
henceforth the gifts of God.
Thine is the health and thine the wealth
that in our halls abound,
and thine the beauty and the joy
with which the years are crowned.

2. Lord, in their change, let frost and heat,
and winds and dews be given;
all fostering power, all influence sweet,
breathe from the bounteous heaven.
Attemper fair and gentle air
the sunshine and the rain,
that kindly earth with timely birth
may yield her fruits again:

3. That we may feed the poor aright,
and, gathering round thy throne,
here, in the holy angel's sight,
repay thee of thine own:
That we may praise thee all our days,
and with the Father's Name,
and with the Holy Spirit's gifts,
the Savior's love proclaim.

Opening Sentence

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Officiant: Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

Confession of Sin

Officiant: Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. *(all kneel)*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Officiant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter *(all stand)*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed:

People: **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

Canticle: Pascha Nostrum *(sung to the tune Sine Nomine "For All the Saints")*

1. God's Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us;
Therefore with joy we keep the Easter feast;
forsaking sin, we share the bread of truth.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Now Christ is raised and will not die again;
death has no more dominion over him;
Through him we die to sin and live to God.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:
though Adam's sin had doomed all flesh die,
in Christ's new life shall all be made alive.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

PSALM 66: 7-18

(the people read the verses in bold print)

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

**8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

**14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.

**16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;**

17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Response: Surely it is God that Saves Me

1. Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
And his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
From salvation's living spring;
In the day of your deliv'rance
Thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

2. Make these deeds known to the peoples;
Tell out God's exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
Wondrous works his might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing;
For with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and
Holy One of Israel.

SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #516 Come Down, O Love Divine

1. Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2. O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;

for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**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.**

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Officiant then says the Collect of the Day and any additional collects and intercessions.

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.**

Collect for the stewardship of creation: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world, the church and those in special need.

For the Church universal, for the churches of our diocese and for our own parish: give us wisdom, trust and commitment as we respond to the challenges of this time of pandemic. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the people who worship with us today, that the Spirit will work in their lives to bring them comfort and hope in the midst of uncertain times. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For people on the front lines: police, firefighters, EMT's, doctors, nurses, and all hospital staff who put themselves at risk to minister to the sick in ways that they have never imagined; and for those seeking a cure. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the people who work to sustain our common life; in thanksgiving for their service and praying for their safety. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are unemployed and have lost their financial security; and for those who are adapting to changed work situations. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the children who are home from school, for the parents who are trying to cope, and in thanksgiving for the educators who are finding creative ways to support them. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For those who struggle with the challenges of social distancing; Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For those on our parish prayer list: *Carmel, Sherry Eichert, Bob Juskalis, Chris Kuhn, Penny Miller, Kristen Mirabello, the Flacco and Reilly families, Ellen Welsh* and for all that we now name, either silently or aloud: ... *(a period of silence)* Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who mourn and we commend to your mercy all who have died, remembering especially Joseph Troilo and those who have died in the coronavirus pandemic, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

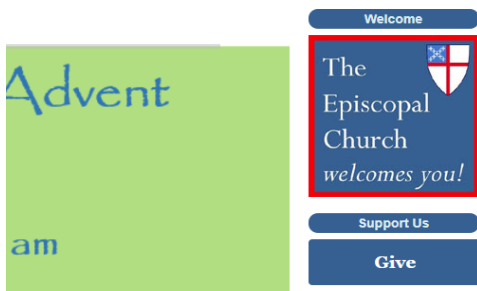
The Celebrant concludes with a collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

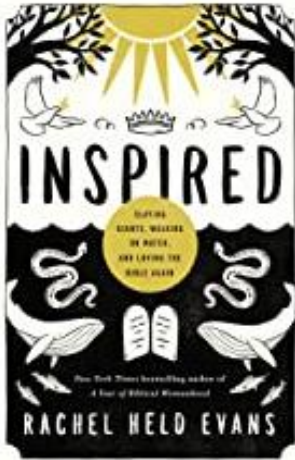
Tithe.ly, our online giving platform is up and running.

This is what it looks like on our webpage:



The capacity to give online is important because it provides a 'touch free,' way to contribute your pledge. And *that* is important because when we gather again to worship together, the offering plate will not be passed, because it can carry virus from person to person.

If you need assistance to set up your Tithe.ly account, contact Lynn at rectoradvent4@gmail.com.



Book Discussion Group—open to you all! But Lynn will need to send you a link to be admitted to the online discussion. Contact her at rectoradvent4@gmail.com to sign up.

What do *you* think about you think about the Bible? From God's mouth to Moses' ear? (Probably not). Mattered back then, but not so much now? (Possibly). Has anything to say to you? (Depends; are you a human trying to figure out being a human?).

Here's what author Rachel Held Evans has to say: *"The Bible is both inspired and inspiring. Our job is ... to discuss and debate, and like the biblical character Jacob, to wrestle with the mystery until God gives us a blessing. If you are curious, you will never leave the text without learning something new. If you are persistent, you might just leave inspired."*

To accommodate participant's schedules, our meeting time has been changed to 3 pm on Thursdays.

With The COVID-19 pandemic, we haven't been able to hold a parish clean-up/workday this spring. But, alas, our property still has some cleaning up that needs doing. Here is a list of some things you could do to help out.

- Weeding the ivy bank and the pollinator gardens. Grass has sprung up and needs to go!
- Mulching the Black-Eyed Susan bed beside the chapel and main sanctuary. There are bags of mulch at the Byberry entrance.
- Weeding the Rorer Street flower gardens and dead-heading the spring bulb flowers.

Please let Jean Scherfcunningham know at davisville4210@gmail.com if you can stop by for an hour or two of yardwork.

Birthday Prayer:

Those celebrating birthdays this week: Kevin Webster and Katelyn Irvine.

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving *(said by the officiant and the people)*

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 ourselves 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.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *(said by the officiant)*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Closing Hymn #398 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;

while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that I could be, thou, God, art present there.

Ministers of the Service

Readers: Lyn Werner, Maryann Cannon, Jeanne Bernosky
Musicians: Barbara Johnson and Heidi New
Tech Support: Evan and Drew Dippre
Officiant: Rev. Lynn Hade

**Today's altar flowers are given in memory
of the loved ones of Aylis and George Wolf.**