



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Prelude — “If You Love Me”

René Clausen

Vocal Quartet: Beth Winterfeldt, Rachel Szybnski, Chad Winterfeldt, Doug Peterson

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection.

We give you thanks, O God,
for calling us, sustaining us, and drawing us together
with the gift of life-giving water.

It is in this water that you washed us clean and called us beloved.
It is through this water that you have quenched our every thirst.
It is with this water that you have called all of your people together.
Though we are living apart from one another for a season,
we know that we are bound together as children of God
through the waters of baptism.

May the water we use in our everyday lives
constantly be a reminder
of your unending forgiveness, grace, and love
that you offer freely to all.

United through the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ,
whose life and resurrection gives us hope for the days to come, we pray.

Amen.



1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der: all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
 Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de-mon-ic chor-us: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"



Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
 Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na, ev-'ry-one!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Triune God,

When we feel scared and uncertain of what lies ahead,
 your Spirit meets us in the middle -

in the space between life and death - and remains.

When life as we know it begins to change,

show us how to remain open to and embody your presence
 through the ever-moving, ever-changing, ever-loving Spirit.

Amen.

Scripture Reading — Acts 17: 22-31

Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: “Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. 23As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you.

24“For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands, 25and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath - everything. 26From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. 27God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us - 28the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, ‘We too are God’s children.’

29”If we are in fact children of God, then it’s inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone - an image formed by the art and thought of mortals. 30God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. 31For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this by raising this judge from the dead.”

Gospel Acclamation — hymn no. 388, sung three times

“Be Not Afraid”

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Gospel — John 14:15-21

The Gospel of the Lord according to the 14th chapter of John.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15“If you love me,
and obey the command I give you,
16I will ask the One who sent me
to give you another Paraclete, another Helper
to be with you always -
17the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept

since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her;
 but you can recognize the Spirit
 because she remains with you
 and will be within you.

18”I won’t leave you orphaned;
 I will come back to you.

19A little while now and the world will see me no more;
 but you’ll see me;
 because I live,
 you will live as well.

20On that day you’ll know
 that I am in God,
 and you are in me,
 and I am in you.

21Those who keep the commandments
 are the ones who love me,
 and those who love me
 will be loved by Abba God.
 I, too, will love them
 And will reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Intern Miranda Joebgen

Hymn — no. 781

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KANINGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand
of the Father,
and he will come 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 Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Use this time of pandemic to reorder our priorities so that our actions do not threaten the wholeness of creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Give wisdom to all whose decisions have the power to save lives and support the health of their constituents. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially Helen Baumgartner, Bob Gamm, Cole Turrittin and all those we name now (aloud, silently or in the comments below) . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry. You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Easter Blessing

May the loving power of God,
which raised Jesus to new life,
strengthen you in hope,
enrich you with love,
and fill you with joy.

Sending Hymn — no. 621

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ has risen!

Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “Hyfrydol”

Setting by Brian Henkelmann

Keith Stelter, oboe

Acknowledgements

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Prayers of the People

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The list below is for recent needs or praise, and a long-term prayer list for chronic or long-term needs will be published monthly in the Heartbeat:

- Helen Baumgartner
- Bob Gamm (father of Cindy Nadeau)
- Cole Turrittin

Announcements

Weekly E-newsletter: Each Thursday, we are sending out an e-newsletter with the latest announcements. If you haven't subscribed to MailChimp, you might miss out of our latest news. Subscribe now!

Lectors Wanted: Are you interested in reading lessons for our Sunday worship? You need to know how to record a video of yourself and download it to a Google folder. Let Pastor Gwen know if you are interested.

Virtual Worship and Spiritual Engagement: These links can be accessed through our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FLCSTP) and will be available at 10am each day.

Monday: Lectio Divina

Tuesday: Children's Time

Wednesday: Morning Prayer

Thursday: Prayer Vigil

Friday: Comforting Music

Saturday: Self Care

Ways to Help During Pandemic:

1. **Quarantine Care:** You can sign up to volunteer to call members of our congregation to check in with them weekly and have conversation. If you'd like to be included, let Pastor Gwen know.
2. **Phone a Friend:** If you are available for people to call when they need a friend to talk to, let Pastor Gwen know. We're hoping to provide a list of phone friends.
3. **Homemade Face Masks:** Do you know how to sew? You can help the effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by making homemade face masks and donating them to the fire department for distribution.
4. **Food Shelf Needs:** The St. Peter Food Shelf is short on baking basics such as flour, baking powder, salt, and masa. These are not available for them to buy in bulk. You are asked to buy extra at the grocery store and drop it off at the food shelf. They are open 1-3 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and 6-8 pm on Thursdays.

Need a transit ride? If so then you're in luck. Starting today (April 27th), Minnesota River Valley Transit dial-a-ride service is free through August. The Board took action to waive the regular fares in both St. Peter and Le Sueur thanks to additional funding received through the CARES Act. Buses are sanitized several times each day for your safety. Call to schedule your ride at 1-(888) 880-4696