



## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Sunday, May 9, 2021

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.  
For in-person worshippers, you are invited to listen  
as the Cantor sings the music.*

## Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Setting by Keith Kolander  
Sophie Martinez (GAC sophomore), organ

**Welcome**

### Opening Litany

Holy God, may we hear your voice  
in the stillness of night, in clatter of day,  
you call us, and we respond:

**Here I am!**

**May we follow you and  
may we love as you love.**

Holy One, through trials and turbulence  
make us steady, your hands  
holding strong the fragile and weak.  
**May we love as you love.**

Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives  
be food for the hungry, bread,  
clothing, shelter, fire, water, word:  
**May we love as you love.**

God of justice, remove the barriers  
of our lives that keep us from  
one another, barriers we construct  
based on skin color, religion, or gender.  
May we hear, and follow, graciously.  
**May we love as you love.**

Loving God, take this day our fears our  
worries, distractions, and all  
Turn them into grace, mercy, and joy,  
and, following the example of Christ Jesus,  
**May we love as you love.**  
**Amen.**

**Canticle of Praise** — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*

“Glory to God in the Highest”

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



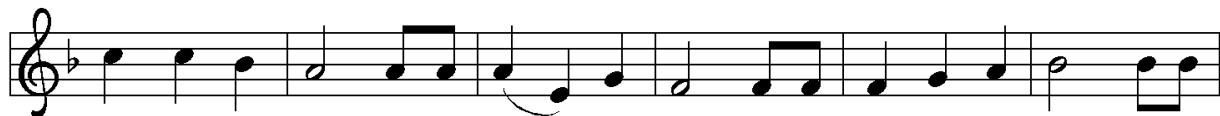
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Hearing & Responding to Scripture

### A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 10:44-48

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Interpretation

“You Make All Creation Dance” based on Psalm 33, *online only*

From *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*

### A Reading from the Epistles — 1 John 5:1-6

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*



## \*Gospel — John 15:9-17

The Gospel of John, the 15th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon — “Love and Joy in the Christian Life”**

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

**Hymn — no. 836**

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav’n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow’rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow’ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

## \*Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The 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>.*

# **Departing to Serve God's World**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

Life-giving God, we remember the mothers  
who have gone before us.

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle and joy,  
we thank you.**

Ever-present God, we remember the mothers of scripture  
who are part of our story  
as we are a part of your story.

**For their courage, faith, love and fierceness,  
we thank you.**

Nurturing God, we remember those who have not given birth to us,  
but are mothers and role models to us.

**For their gift of themselves that they have given,  
we thank you.**

For the people who struggle with fertility,  
for those whom society labels as less in their childlessness,  
for those who have lost children or do not want children;  
**for their tears, for their strength,  
for their wisdom, for their lives,  
we thank you.**

Mothering God, we go out today giving thanks for  
the people in our lives who have nurtured us and set an example  
of love, patience, kindness, and compassion as Christ did before us.

**For illuminating their path and encouraging  
them to let their light shine so that we may follow,  
we thank you!**

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace, love, and joy! Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Setting by Pamela M. Robertson  
Liza Johnson (GAC senior), piano

## **Acknowledgements**

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“Prayer of Commitment” (Opening Litany) written by Terri, adapted, posted on the RevGalBlogPals blog. <http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.com/>  
Blessing: “Mother’s Day Prayer” by Claire Schoepp, adapted, last petition added, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/04/a-prayer-for-mothers-day.html>

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### **Online Assistants**

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Lector/Assistant: Luke Banks, Tobias Twait  
Psalm reader: Ivy McHugh  
Musicians: Sophie Martinez and Liza Johnson (GAC students)

### **In Person Assistants**

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Greeter/Reader: Betsy and Garrett Paul  
Ushers: Carrie and Keith Stelter  
Musicians: Sophie Martinez and Liza Johnson (GAC students)

## **Announcements**

**Call Committee Volunteers:** The church Council is asking for suggestions and/or volunteers to serve on the call committee to select our next pastor. Please contact any Council member with your suggestion or if you wish to volunteer. Our constitution limits the committee to seven members selected by the Council.

**Welcome GAC Musicians to FLC this Week:** Senior Liza Johnson and sophomore Sophie Martinez, both of whom have been connected to FLC during part of their time in college, will offer both the prelude and postlude this week.

**FLC Calendar:** With so much starting up again in our church community, we are trying to stay organized! Do you have a meeting to schedule? Need to know if a certain space or time is available? Check the FLC website and head to the calendar page to see what’s going on! <http://www.flcstp.org/calendar--events.html>

**Saint Peter Local Public Access Channel Weekly Worship Schedule:** Join us weekly Sunday mornings at 11:30 am and later at 3:00 pm. Additional broadcasts happen Monday at 6:00 pm and Tuesday at 8:00 am.

**Prayer Concerns:** We are called to remember Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge and one another in prayer. We lift-up prayers of healing for all others in our personal prayers this week including Amy Ronnkvist’s mother, Kathy Matthews. We also pray for all the families who mourn the loss of loved ones.