



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020 - 10:00 AM



### Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of health care workers by Marcus and Connie Blackstone.



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C Major (BuxWV 137) by Dietrich Buxtehude*

## WELCOME

*Stand*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the life beyond all death,  
the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

**Amen.**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,  
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.**

**Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.**

**We have not listened to voices that challenge us.**

**We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions.**

**Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.**

**Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear**

**the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism

you have been born anew by the living word of God.

Know that your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name

and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you

both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God,  
you hold together all things in heaven and on earth.  
In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children,  
and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

# WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God is the one who gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor was made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and was allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are God’s offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now all people everywhere are commanded to repent, <sup>31</sup>because a day has been fixed on which all the world will be judged in righteousness by one appointed by God, and of this we all have been given assurance by raising this judge from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain*

Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

*Psalm  
Tone*<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living****and has not allowed our | feet to slip. ☞**<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;

you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;****you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,

but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings****and will pay | you my vows—**<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;****I will give you ox- | en and goats. ☞**<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,

and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,****and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,

the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me****and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,

nor withheld unfailing | love from me. ☞

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>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, <sup>15</sup>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; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also Jesus went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, and has dominion over angels, authorities, and powers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*No Matter What*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the One who sent me, and you will be given another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in God, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by God, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*A Time for Accompaniment*

*Stand as able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

#659

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you,  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we welcome our God into the sanctuaries of our homes, let us pray for all the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Abiding God, come into all the homes around the globe from which your people offer their prayer. Bless Christian leaders as they guide the church through this pandemic. Show our pastors, deacons, and our church councils the way forward. Grant your grace also to the devout in other religions of the world, and show your kindness to all who search for you, whether within or outside the church.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Creating God, revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Especially we pray for our local bodies of water. Form us unto a baptized body that protects the waters on which we rely.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Righteous God, instill in all the leaders of nations a desire for justice and the will to serve the oppressed. We pray especially for those nations in which dictatorship threatens the population. Guide our nation's governors in their difficult pathway between the threat of disease and the dangers of scarcity and isolation. Bring our legislators into agreement about how to assist those in need. Give us patience in facing our current predicament.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Compassionate God, visit all who are in great need, those who suffer from the coronavirus, those living in loneliness and fear, those without jobs, and those who mourn their dead. Uphold those whose futures have been taken away from them. We pray for health care workers and for the residents in care homes, prisons, and refugee camps. For the countless persons who carry heavy burdens on their back, we pray, and we call out to you these names:

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Benevolent God, give the world a vaccine.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Fatherly and motherly God, embrace all orphans. Support the agencies that attend to the world's orphans. Shield orphaned children from traffickers. Give to all nations wisdom concerning the refugees who are children. Watch over all children whose usual care-givers are absent. Form us into your children who love all whom you have made.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Loving God, once again each of us offers our personal praises and petitions.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

Eternal God, your kingdom is here now, and it has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially King Erik of Sweden, Queen Helena of the Roman Empire, those who have died of Covid-19, and those who we remember in our hearts. Unite us forever in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*A brief silence.*

For this we pray:

**O God, hear us!**

With bold confidence in your love, merciful God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

☒ **Peace be with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today  
to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.*

*Sit*

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,  
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Sicilienne, Op. 78 by Gabriel Fauré  
Amanda Mast, flute*

*Stand as able*

OFFERTORY HYMN

*Thine Is the Glory*

#376

(Verse 1)

**Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

Let us pray. Merciful God,

**our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,  
but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.  
Feed us again at this table for service in your name,  
in the strength of the risen Christ.  
Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:

you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,

and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:

freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile,

wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:

forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death,

the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:

renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**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.**

HYMN

*Thy Holy Wings*

#613

**Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.  
Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.  
Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life,  
fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

## DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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