



## **All Saints Episcopal Church**

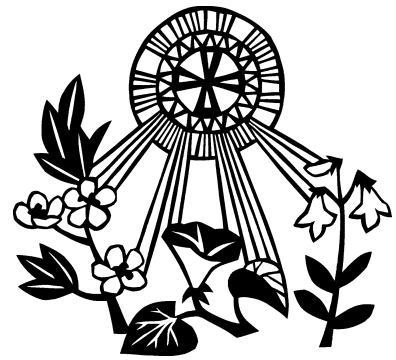
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## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 17, 2020

### **Welcome**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia

### **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.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Lord, open our lips.

**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.**

### **Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum***

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast.

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death,  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die,  
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia

**The First Lesson: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Acts 17:22-31*

*This lesson is Paul's address in a public forum to the curious citizens of Athens. The apostle has arrived in the intellectual and cultural center of the Greek world. The author of Acts has him deliver a kind of sample sermon for a pagan audience. Troubled by their worship of many gods, Paul uses their altar dedicated to an unknown god as an opportunity to tell them of the one true Lord of heaven and earth, and of the time of judgment and the man he raised from the dead.*

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."

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** *We respond to the first lesson with a portion of Psalm 66*

*A hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God, who rules in majesty and delivers the people.*

Bless our God, you peoples; \*

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, \*

and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; \*

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; \*

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

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.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*

I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth, \*

and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, \*

the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; \*

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*

nor withheld his love from me.

**The Second Lesson:** *A Reading from The Epistle of First Peter*

*1 Peter 3:13-22*

*This reading offers guidance for all Christians, counseling a readiness to suffer patiently for doing what is right. The First Letter of Peter was written at a time when Christians in Asia Minor were experiencing persecution. The author has given advice to particular groups of people and now urges all disciples to live together in love and humility, always being willing to speak in defense of their Christian hope. They should keep their consciences clear, and , if they do suffer, they are to remember how Christ, the just one, died for the unjust.*

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.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel:** *The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*     *John 14:15-21*

*In our gospel Jesus promises his followers that those who love him will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will also see him. The evangelist presents Jesus in final conversation with his followers. Soon he will be taken away from them by death, but God will send another Counselor. The world (that is, Godless society) cannot receive this Spirit of truth nor come to perceive Jesus as still living. Yet those who follow the commandments of love will find new life in ultimate association with Jesus and the Father.*

**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."

*The gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Reflection:** *The Rev. Bill Petersen*

**The Creed:** *We profess our faith using the words of The Apostles' Creed:*

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.

**Prayers:** *Let us center ourselves in the peace and love of Jesus through prayer.*

As we welcome our God into the sanctuaries of our homes, let us pray for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words that echo today's psalm: "O God, hear us."

*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 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 (*local bodies of water may be named*). 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 your 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, all those who have died of Covid-19, and those who 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.**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray...*

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,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life

and in the life to come. **Amen.**

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

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.*

Until we meet again, 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.**

**Dismissal**

Christ is risen, just as he said.

**Share the good news. Alleluia. Alleluia!**

## Please Continue To Pray For Those on Our Prayer List

Gwendolyn Deneault	Penelope Bennis	Debra and Family
Walter Spellman	Patricia Noxon	Bob Champagne
Vange Sandeen	Kathy Holloran	Judith Locke
Patsy Matthews	Rhys Eppich	Robert & Dian
Shirley Bentley	Mary McAuley	Michele
Marilyn Kay	Penny Meyer	Prue Fitts
Joe Blackett	Susie Tidd	Zell Kellogg
Judy Hess	Joe Nunnery	Michael Dowd
Debe Tetherly	Khadijah Goforth	Jacqueline McLaughlin
Don Wesp	Wayne S.	Mary Ellen Davis
Bobbie Sutherland	Mark Luken	George & Linda Pacheco
Bob Pierpont	Kate Blending	Carolyn Toshney
Stephanie Schroeder	Rodney Morgan	Ron Locke
Kate Clending	Gina Vivian	



## Thank You for Giving During This Time of Pandemic

Thank you for all who have continued to support the work of All Saints during this time. You may make contributions by mail, using your financial institution's automated check writing service, or secure online giving via [Donate](#)



***Creator of all we enjoy, we give you thanks for the countless people you have gathered to do your work as All Saints' Wolfeboro. We thank you for your Holy Spirit inspiring some as they longed for this church, others as they built this church and still others as they lovingly and boldly led this church through times of abundance and times of scarcity. Help us to be bold as we model giving of time and money during this time. Make our generous giving a symbol of both our faith and our gratitude. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.***