

Liturgy

The Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

May God be gracious to us and bless us,
and cause His face to shine upon us –

*So that Your ways may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.*

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for the LORD has revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**O LORD, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants
who walk before You with all their heart.**

Glory in His holy name:

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Come, let us praise and worship our gracious God!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 67, 86, 98, 105; 1 Kings 8:23

Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach,
To gather children in.

Chorus:

Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O, Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days,
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age,
“Our God is all in all.”

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LECTIONARY for the sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29 or 5:1-9

On this sixth Sunday of Eastertide, as we continue our study and contemplation of the meaning and significance of the Resurrection of Christ for all of His creation, and—especially in this Year C—of how we, His disciples, bear witness with our words and lives to the joyful truth of His victorious rising from the dead, our attention is turned to the traditional theme of this week: the immanent role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. All three lectionary years include portions of the long section of John’s gospel known as “Jesus’ Farewell Discourse.” These chapters (John 14-16) record Jesus’ comforting teaching and promises about the sending of the Holy Spirit and about the community of the Father, Son, and Spirit—a community, both loving and dynamic, in which we are wondrously invited to partake as God’s children.

In this passage in John 14, we read something of what it means to partake in the community of the Triune God. Not only are we promised peace, encouragement, and strength. We are also exhorted that living within the love of the Father, Son, and Spirit means that we listen and obey when God speaks, and we keep His word because we love Him. In Acts 16, we read examples of that obedience in the early missionary ministry of the Apostle Paul: He was called by the Spirit in a night vision to journey to Macedonia, through his obedience Lydia became the first European convert to Christianity. Psalm 67 echoes the praises of the peoples of the earth who have seen the goodness and power of God. And in Revelation, as John records the end of the Story, we see the fulfillment of the promise that God’s people—those who love Him, from every nation—will live in His presence forever.

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord,
Worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God,
Enter in, O enter in.
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

Holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts;
Saints and angels give You glory
Now and forevermore.

CCLI Song #1222013 ©1993 Intergrity's Hosanna! Music.
David Baroni, Tony Sutherland

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Saints, hear and receive this testimony from the Revelation of Jesus Christ
to the Apostle John:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, and the holy city, Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God.

Its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb.

It has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

*The nations will walk by its light;
and only those whose names are written
in the Lamb's book of life may enter it.*

There will no longer be any curse;
the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,
and His servants will worship Him.

We will see His face, and His name will be on our foreheads.

And there will be no more night;
we will need no light of lamp or sun,
for the Lord God will be our light,
and we will reign with Him forever and ever.

— from Revelation 21:10 – 22:5

We give thanks with joy to the Father,
who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

**For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of His cross.**

God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:

Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Thanks be to God!

— from Colossians 1:12-28

The Profession of Faith is drawn from the lectionary text from Revelation. It is set for a leader, and two readers from within the congregation. The corporate responsorial reading sets a complementary text from the first chapter of the epistle to the Colossians.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Lord, You have called us to become Your own.
We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood.
We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with Your spirit and life.
Shine through us, and be so in us,
that every soul we come in contact
with may feel Your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!

[Silence]

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine.
Let us preach You, not by our words only,
but by our lives, by our example,
by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do,
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You.

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

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Words: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1912. Hymn tune: ST. LEONARDS, Arthur Barham-Gould, 1925.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is faithful and true. This is His promise of pardon:

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the Rock from which you were hewn.

*For the LORD will comfort His people;
joy and gladness will be found in them,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
And His justice will be a light to the peoples:
His salvation will be forever,
and His deliverance will never be ended.*

— from Isaiah 51:1-6

The prayer of confession is adapted from the well-known poem-prayer by John Henry Newman, a 19th-century British Catholic theologian.

Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web. See, for example:

Christian Prayers Ancient and New (<http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/november09p8.htm>), or

World Prayers (http://www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/invocations/dear_jesus_help_us_to.html)

This setting of the lovely song of confession, May the Mind of Christ, My Savior is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet. Here is a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/may-mind-christ-my-savior>

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is; nothing compares to this:
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

CCLI Song #7068424 ©2016 Hillsong Music Publishing.
Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Music: Oliver Holden; Hymn tune: CORONATION
Words: Edward Perronet, 1779; last verse: John Rippon, 1787

THE WORD

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29

John 5:1-9

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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The King In All His Beauty

O, lift your eyes to Heaven, see
The Holy One eternal.
Behold the Lord of Majesty
Exalted in His temple.
As symphonies of angels' praise
Now strain to sound His glory,
Come worship, fall before His grace:
The King in all His beauty.

Chorus

How worthy, how worthy;
How worthy: the King in all His beauty.

Now see the King who wears a crown,
One made of shame and splinters,
The sacrifice for ruined man,
The substitute for sinners.
As Earth is stained with royal blood
And quakes with love and fury,
He breathes His last and bows His head:
The King in all His beauty.

Now see the Savior lifted up:
The Lamb who reigns in splendor,
The hope of every tribe and tongue,
His kingdom is forever.
Bring praise and honor to His courts,
Bring wisdom, power, blessing;
For endless ages we'll adore
The King in all His beauty.

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Love Your Enemies Publishing, Messenger Hymns. Matthew Boswell, Matthew Papa.

Music for The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/lords-prayer-clip

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Come, People of the Risen King (chorus)

Rejoice, rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice;
O, Church of Christ, rejoice!

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Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

Benediction:

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord.
Because He has triumphed over death,
and the Messiah is Lord over all creation,
Savior of the world now and forever, you also live.

Alleluia! Amen!

Since we have been raised with Christ,
let us now go forth as His witnesses,
loving and serving Him in the joy and victorious power
of His resurrection.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The Lord redeemed us by his own blood, and gave his soul for our souls, and his flesh for our bodies, and poured out the Spirit of the Father to bring about the union and communion of God and man – bringing God down to men by [the working of] the Spirit, and again raising man to God by his incarnation – and by his coming firmly and truly [gave] us incorruption, by our communion with God.”

– Irenaeus

Lectionary for next week: Acts 1:1-11
Psalms 47 and 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

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