

Sixth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Announcements



Check out
this week's
bulletin

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one
God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter
and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

C: Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C: By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the

risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

Hymn 382 (vs. 1-4)

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him
as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from griefs and tears.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead!

2 Christ is risen! All the sadness
of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending
see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead!

3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow
that last evening round him lay
now has found a glorious morrow
in the rising of today.
See the grave its firstfruits giving,
springing up from holy ground;
Christ was dead, but now is living;
he was lost, but he is found.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead!

4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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P: Allelujah! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Allelujah! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Allelujah! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

This is the Feast

p187

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia

2 Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for
the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia

The Prayer of the Day

AM: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

AM: Let us pray



All: 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



The First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the

name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of Wisdom, Word of life

All: Thanks Be to God

Psalm

Psalm 98

The Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

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

who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This 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.

Word of Wisdom, Word of life

All: Thanks Be to God

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. ---

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. ---

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel
According to John
the fifteenth chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

“This is my commandment, that you

love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ



Sixth Sunday of Easter



Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymn 804 (vs. 1-4)

1 Come down, O Love divine;
seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2 Oh, let it freely burn,
till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illuminating.

3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner
clothing--
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps
with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human
telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace
till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a
dwelling.



Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-1890

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Our Prayers



A serene sunset over a vast ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a layer of clouds, creating a bright golden glow. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a deep orange near the horizon. The ocean's surface is dark blue with gentle waves, and a shimmering path of light reflects the sun's position. In the bottom right corner, the silhouettes of two people walking on a beach are visible against the dark sand.

Peace

Is with
you

Tithes & Offerings



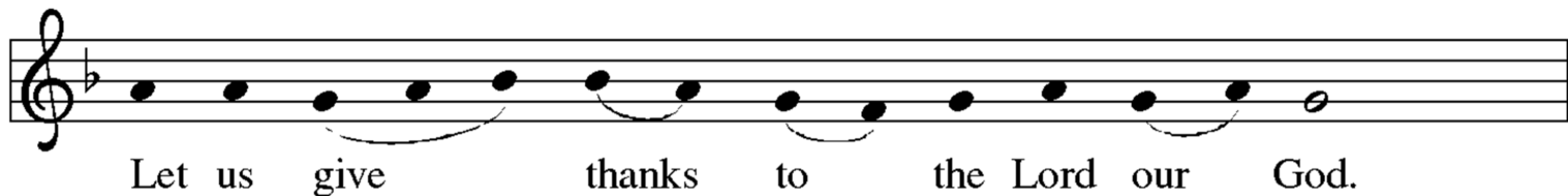
Down Ampney
-arr. Wilbur Held

AM: Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

Dialogue

Maybe sung or chanted



P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...join in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and
might, Heaven and earth are full of your
glory, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the
highest. --- Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord. Hosanna,
hosanna, hosanna in the highest.



The Great Thanksgiving

Matthew 26; Mark 14;
Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11

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.



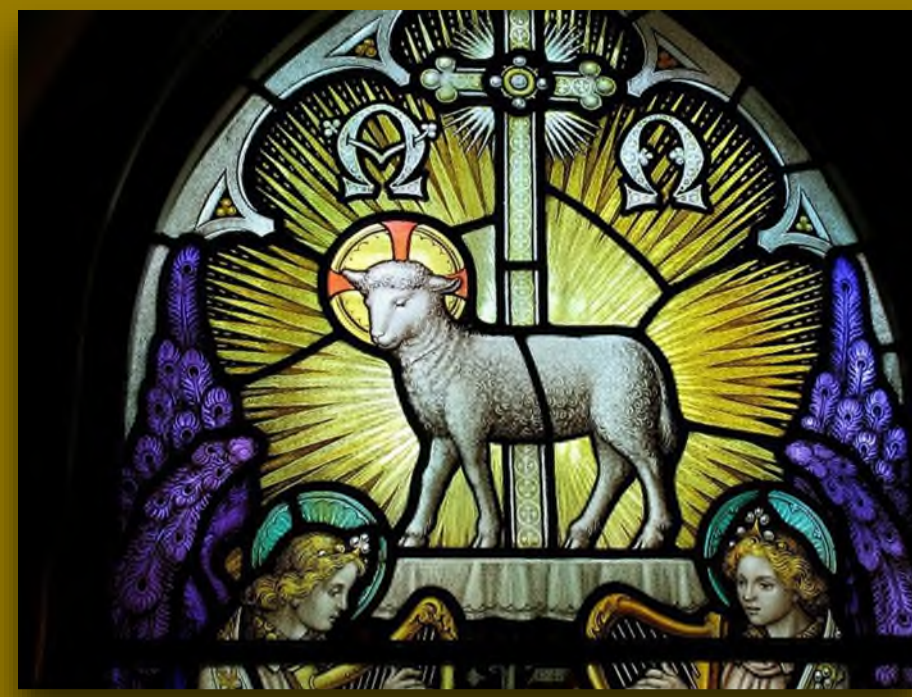
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.



Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.





Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God



for you.

Prayer After Communion





Blessing

On Our Way Rejoicing

Hymn 537 (vs. 1 & 2)

1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore.

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!



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A scenic landscape photograph featuring a dense forest of tall, green coniferous trees. In the middle ground, a calm pond reflects the surrounding greenery. The foreground is filled with vibrant yellow wildflowers and green foliage. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The entire image is framed by a solid olive-green border.

Rejoice

Go

Alleluia!

Postlude

A scenic view of a forest with a pond and yellow wildflowers in the foreground. The forest is dense with tall evergreen trees, and the pond is surrounded by green grass and yellow wildflowers. The sky is clear and blue.

Come You, Faithful!
-arr. Wilbur Held