

+ Sixth Sunday of Easter +

9 May 2021

10:15 AM



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.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

back of bulletin

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

back of bulletin

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

*Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
And Christ shall give you light;
So learn his love, its length and breadth,
Its fullness, depth, and height.*

GOSPEL READING

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

The Gospel According to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

continued

John 15:9-17

back of bulletin

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

*To us on earth he came to bring
From sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit’s unity,
The very bond of peace.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”* *in bulletin*

APOSTLES’ CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 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.

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*Worshippers are invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace,
saying these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

PRAYER

OFFERTORY

OFFERING HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

*Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
Who died that he might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive
As God in Christ forgave.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

in bulletin

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

*For us Christ lived, for us Christ died,
And conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
And Christ shall give you life.*

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

God is here!

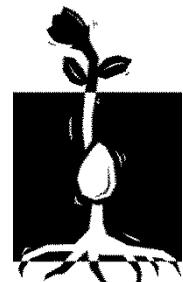
Spread the Word!

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021

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.

a brief silence.

Loving God, you call your church to live as a friend of yours in love to one another. Strengthen the bond of all Christian churches that they live as examples of your love by working together in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Creating God, the earth rings out in joy at your great gifts. Raise up stewards of all your blessings and teach us to live in harmony with your desires. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering, especially... and all those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts... Provide for those needing homes or medical care, and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with all who are dying. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

time for silence and additional prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

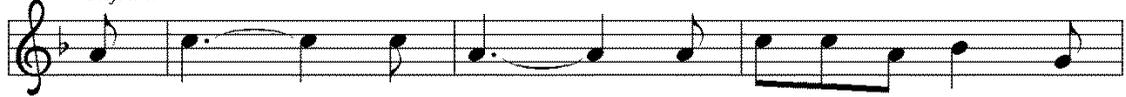
Hear our prayer.

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, who taught us to pray...

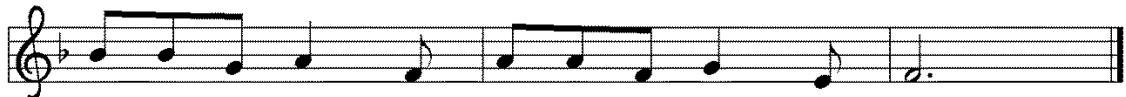
continue with Lord's Prayer

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

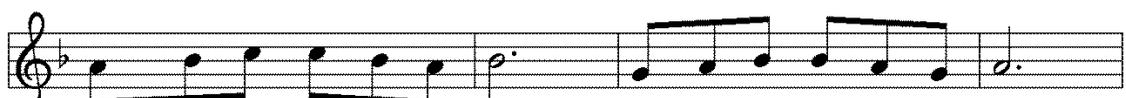
Refrain



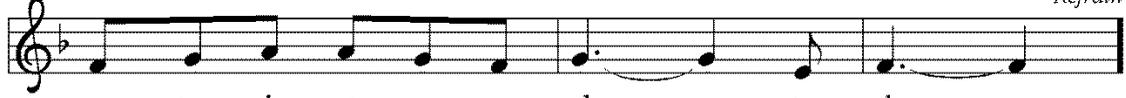
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.