

Sixth Sunday of Easter, year A

May 17, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Focus on the Season: Sixth Sunday of Easter, year A

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Everything for worship is now included in one video. You may wish to print these pages before worship, as you won't be switching back and forth anymore and it would be helpful to have an order of service to follow along in the home.

There are several places where you are invited to respond or even lead; these are clear in the video.

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Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. **Start the video by clicking here**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: Prelude in G Major, BWV 541 J. S. Bach
Recorded live by Cantor Cherwien at Mount Olive on Thursday, May 14, 2020

EASTER GREETING

Greet one another with the good news!

🔊 Christ is risen! Alleluia!

🔊 **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN: ELW 394, "Hail Thee, Festival Day"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday of Easter, year B, April 8, 2018.

Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31; reader – assisting minister Mark Pipkorn

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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,²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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,²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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.’

²⁹ 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.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ 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.”

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.

Bless our | God, you peoples; * let the sound of | praise be heard.

Our God has kept us a- | mong the living * and has not allowed our | feet to slip.

For you, O God, have | tested us; * you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

You brought us in- | to the net; * you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.

You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water, * but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

I will enter your house | with burnt offerings * and will pay | you my vows—

those that I promised | with my lips * and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams; * I will give you ox- | en and goats.

Come and listen, all you | who believe, * and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

I called out to God | with my mouth, * and praised the Lord | with my tongue.

If I had cherished evil | in my heart, * the Lord would | not have heard me;

but in truth | God has heard me * and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer, * nor withheld unailing | love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22; reader – assisting minister Mark Plpkorn

¹³ Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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; ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 388, “Be Not Afraid”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Third Sunday of Easter, year A, May 4, 2014.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Jesus said to the disciples, ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees her nor knows her. You know her, because she abides with you, and she will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ 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.”

SERMON

Pandemic

Pr. Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection

HYMN: ELW 588, “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 24 C, September 15, 2019.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Our Assisting Minister for today, Mark Pipkorn, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ.

*Respond to each petition: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE

Please greet one another with Christ’s peace.

AT THE OFFERING

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

*And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth.*

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD’S PRAYER AND BLESSING

Pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

*The benediction is on the video. Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 392, “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, year B, May 10, 2018.

DISMISSAL

Someone may lead the dismissal for the others:

Christ is risen! Alleluia! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE:

Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

J. S. Bach

Recorded live by Cantor David Cherwien on Thursday, May 14, 2020