

Church of the Epiphany
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Rogation Sunday)
(Mother's Day)

9 May 2021 ~ 11:00AM via Zoom

Join Zoom Worship on computer/smartdevice: <https://zoom.us/j/99005230944>

Call-in to Zoom Worship: 1-646-876-9923, Enter Meeting ID: 990 0523 0944 #

Hello & good day! We are glad indeed that you are here indeed.

This is a place where we nurture souls with prayerful worship.

If we can help you in any way, please let us know!

Office: 570-563-1564 Rev. Lou Divis: 570-878-4670 Rev. John Davis: 570-575-8689

Processional Hymn #651 This is My Father's World

1 This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is our Father's world, oh, let us not forget that though the wrong is great and strong, God is our Father yet. He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair, all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

Opening Prayer

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria #S-280

Glory to god in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

A reading from the Book of Acts, chapter 10, verses 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. The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is 98. We will pray it responsively by verse.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, * for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; * lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, * with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity.

A reading from the First Letter of John, Chapter 5 verses 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. The Word of the Lord. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn #610 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed, we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light, in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:9-17) Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "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

the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Creed (sung to tune: Love Divine, All Love's Excelling; hymnal #657)

1 We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began. We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God in human frame, virgin born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came.

2 Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead. We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's King to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.

3 We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Savior, Lord and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

Prayers of the People.

We pray for your faithful people and our leaders, that your love may be the foundation of their common lives and at the heart of their ministry.

Teach us to abide in your love.

We pray for your world filled with creatures and spectacular plant life and grandeur beyond words.

Teach us to care for it with love.

We pray for the peoples of the world, especially Epiphany School in Uganda, its Primary Class Seven; St. George's, Hellertown and St. Stephen's, Whitehall; and honor them as those you have made and cherish.

Teach us to reach out to them with respect and love.

We pray for healing for those among us who are ailing, aching, or anxious:

Canon Bill & Fran; Rev. Tom; Maureen; Fr. Graham and Mary-Jo; Carol; Luke; Wilmer; Pat; Scott; Mason; Beth; James, Laura & Cristina; Ryan & Michelle; Mel; Donna; Mike and the residents & staff at Abington Manor; Angelique; Jimmy; Adele; Molly; Judy; John; Amy and Jim; Beth; Jack; Susan; Jack; Scott; Lynn; Richelle; Elle; Kim; Ceil; Jim; Don; Eleanore & George; Amy & Todd; Sandi; Bob; Betsy & Ed; Jane; Jackie; Jack; Louise; Daryl; Addiction Sufferers & their families; all whose lives are touched by COVID-19; and those whom we name. *[pause]*

Teach us to respond to their needs with love.

We pray for those who are at the end of their earthly lives, and for those who have recently entered eternal life, especially Fr. Steve Matylewicz, Drue Port, Shirley Holmes, and those whom we name. *[pause]*

Teach us to remember them with love.

Uphold us by the riches of your grace, loving God. May your lessons of love continue to inspire and guide us as we move through this world and into the next.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest, stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace & The Announcements

Deacon: **Offertory sentence:** I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Offertory Hymn #204 Now the green blade riseth

1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Refrain: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, thinking that never he would awake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: [Refrain]

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain, quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen: [Refrain]

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, thy touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: [Refrain]

Holy Communion Prayer D

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Hymnal S-129: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in

the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you. **We praise**

you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

#S 155 Fraction Anthem: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Deacon: Prayer of Spiritual Reception: **In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our soul and body with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our heart. We unite ourselves to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our soul. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live and die in your love. Amen.** *(Adapted from The Armed Forces Prayer Book 1951)*

Communion Hymn (LEVAS) #151 One Bread, One Body

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free; woman or man, no more. [Refrain]

2 Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. [Refrain]

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. [Refrain]

Prayer after Communion – BCP pg. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us

now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia., alleluia

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Recessional Hymn #344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace: O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration for thy Gospel's joyful sound: may the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound: ever faithful, ever faithful to thy truth may we be found;

3 so that when thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, fear of death shall not appall us, glad thy summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with thee in endless day.

Images in the Readings

"I command you.." These words may make us uncomfortable. Yet, God's commandments show us God's love, and help the community to stand together, and provide a blueprint for life. How often have our requirements fallen on closed ears and closed hearts (thinking of 2 years old's and 12year old's, and sometimes older olds!). Sometimes we may get a different reaction if we say: I need, I'd like, rather than 'you have to', or let me show/ tell you what I think might work.

Would our lives be different if we let God lead us and show us what to do rather than command us to do something so difficult! Maybe that is what Easter is about - God did show us love in all the wrong places, in all the wrong ways, with all the wrong people! How hard can it be to love everyone?