

# THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Holy Eucharist at 11:00 AM

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

## THE GATHERING RITE

**Gathering Music** *Passepied* from *Suite Bergamasque* by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

### The Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant:** † Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*All sing together the Song of Praise.*

## Song of Praise

*Antiphon*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]  
God and the Lamb for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

*Final Antiphon*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

words: Revelation 5:12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980)

music: *Festival Canticle*, Richard Hillert (1923-2010)

words © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*

music © 1975 Richard Hillert

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## The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant:** 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.

**All:** **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## The First Reading *Acts 17:22-31*

Lector: Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.'

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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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."

## The Response *at the direction of the Cantor*



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## **The Gospel** *John 14:15-21*

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**Celebrant:** Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon** *preached by the Rev. Louise Kalemkerian, Associate Priest*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## The Creed

*Douglas Gay, adapted*

**All:** We Believe in Life.

We believe in the God of Life, the world maker, the star lighter, the sun shiner, the beauty maker; provoking the evolving cosmos from nothing but words of love. We believe in life.

We believe in the risen Jesus, the cross bearer, the hell-harrower, the death defier; embracing the resurrection of all as the first-born from death. We believe in life.

We believe in the life-giving Spirit, the breath bringer, the body lover, the Church birther; enabling communion with Jesus the Living One. We believe in life.

We believe in the God of Life: World-maker, cross-bearer, life-giver; Trinity of hope, leading creation to its liberation.

We believe in God.

## The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace, we give you thanks and praise: God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: We thank you for life, and one more day to love; God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: For opportunity, and one more day to work for justice and peace; God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: For neighbors, and one more person to love and by whom to be loved; God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: For your grace, and one more experience of your presence; God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God. God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: For what else shall we pray? Please name your own prayers in the place where you are.

*Silence is kept.*

Intercessor: Pray for those who are ill and those who care for them.

Pray for those who have died and those who mourn them.

For the healing you bring and the hope to which you call us: God of abundance,

**People:** we thank you.

Intercessor: Gathering all our prayers together, we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**All:** 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 for ever. Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Musical Offering at the Offertory *sung by the choir*

If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may bide with you forever; e'en the spirit of truth.

words: John 14:15-17  
music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

*The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, adapted from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Didache eucharistic prayer.*

Holy God, we give you thanks for your image and very being, planted in our hearts, and for the knowledge, and faith, and immortality you have made known to us in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

You are radiant in glory through all you have created, O God. You give us food and drink for our pleasure, and that we might give you thanks. You bless us now with spiritual food and drink, eternal life in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

While Jesus sat at table with his friends, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat; this is my Body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, you remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new creation, poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, you remember me."

Gathered now at your banquet O God, we offer our lives as thanks and praise. Remember us, your pilgrim people; deliver us from evil, and make us complete in your love. Gather us, like scattered grain growing on the hillsides, into your great harvest, that we may be made one in the wholeness of your love. **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Communion

*During this season of gathering together virtually in the space of our homes, we take this moment to contemplate the sacrament of Christ's presence in the People of God. The Apostle Paul says, "we are all one body because we all share in the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). It is true that when we share any meal in love, and the Eucharist is our especially focused way, we discern the Presence of Christ in and as the community of the beloved. This awareness is possible even at a distance. We are the Body of Christ, wherever we are.*

*As we open ourselves to that awareness, that spiritual communion, you may wish to pray the following prayer, adapted from the writings of Sr. Ilia Delio:*

O God, we are united here as one in your transcendent power of love. From this center of goodness You appear to us now in a new way, a new light, a new understanding, a new power of friendship and unity. We receive this life from you; we share this life together. You appear in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. We receive you. This is the Body of Christ. Amen.

## Musical Offering at the Communion *sung by the choir*

I will not leave you comfortless;  
I will come to you yet again,  
and your heart shall be joyful.  
Alleluia.

words: John 14:18  
music: Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

# THE SENDING RITE

## The Prayer after Communion

*from the Church of New Zealand*

*The Celebrant prays*

**Celebrant:** Loving God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**All:** **Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.**

## The Blessing and Peace

*from the Church of New Zealand*

*The Celebrant blesses the People*

The wonder and wildness of God, who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant bids the People to share Christ's Peace with one another now, at the virtual coffee hour to follow, and by reaching out in the week to come.*

**Postlude** *Allegro maestoso e vivace* from Sonata II by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

# THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Join us for **Coffee Hour** on Zoom! Click here: <https://zoom.us/j/95487513966>

To call in by phone, dial (415) 762-9988 and use meeting ID 954 8751 3966.

View our weekly announcements at [stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning).



# St. Paul's on the Green

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## GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Sharing in the work of St. Paul's expanding ministry is easy, and there are many ways to contribute. Financial giving is especially important during this time, as many of the church's costs are fixed, and expenses continue to come due. Grateful thanks for all generous contribution during this time.

You can:

- \* **Mail a check** made payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church: 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. Mail is being picked up regularly.
- \* Mail in your **pledge envelope**.
- \* **Give electronically** via bank or credit card: visit <http://www.stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate> to learn more.
- \* **Text-to-Give**: simple and secure; text the amount of your donation to **855-934-1074**.

Please reach out to our Treasurer, Brad McKinney, at [treasurer@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsnorwalk.org) with any questions or issues you may have. Thank you for your generous giving during this time.

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