

Sunday, May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day!



Thought: In John's Gospel, we hear of Jesus telling his disciples that they will receive an "advocate." Two other translations of that word...Helper and Comforter. This Spirit gift will be with them and us forever helping us sort out the truth of knowing Christ our Lord and living in this world.

It reminds me of mothers and those who have filled that role for you. As you grew up, in your stages of life, those who filled that role are indeed one who advocates for you when you struggle. They offer help when the pathway is unclear and the future foggy. In the bumps and bruises of life there is nothing like the comfort provided by the one who loves you...God in Christ and the person who is your "mom."

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Litany for Mother's Day

Thanks to Melanie and Lily who share in the reading – see your insert

Gathering Hymn – “Our Father, by Whose Name” ELW #640

<https://youtu.be/WYwj-kud31s>

by Festival Choir

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer

P: Almighty God, your strength and might overshadow the darkness of the world. Your presence gives us joy and contentment, even in the midst of suffering.

C: Hear us as we cry out to you, and enter every situation of need with our life-giving love. Teach us to trust you through every trial and problem we face, that we might serve as a witness to others of your unfailing love and mercy. In the same way you come to us with compassion and grace, send us to others with the light of your hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen!

<https://youtu.be/GG8hzY1OoM4>

by Chris Brunelle

Prayer of the Day

A: 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,

C: 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.

The Word

First Reading – Acts 17:22-31

‘In him we live and move and have our being’

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For ‘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.’ ²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second reading – 1 Peter 3:13-22

In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into

heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 14:15-21

<https://youtu.be/Gi5spRu6G7Q>

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God time

<https://youtu.be/LsTttDApx6Y>

Homily – “Never Alone”

https://youtu.be/zJ09_9aXvFc

Hymn of the Day – “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine” ELW #398

<https://youtu.be/fES773Z7wdw>

by Grace Lutheran State College, PA

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send
your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world
to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints (*especially*). Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Offering and Offertory Music

“We Are an Offering” ELW #692

Offertory Prayer

A: Recognize these gifts for what they are, O God –

C: responses to your endless care, signs of our thanks and praise.

A: Recognize these gifts for what they are, O God –

C: evidence of your Spirit, living deep within our hearts.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: You offer at this table your presence, O Christ.

C: You offer your Spirit.

A: You offer true grace. Encourage us by this meal O Christ,

C: that we may BE for one another as you ARE for us.

A: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “Now Thank We All Our God”

ELW #840

<https://youtu.be/K7gMDXylzW8>

by Tabernacle Choir

Dismissal

A: Guided by God’s Spirit, we go to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

