

Sixth Monday of Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion

6:30 PM on May 6, 2024

Quiet Time Prayer

God, help me to live in love with you, and with love for all. Amen.

Welcome

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day When will we celebrate Ascension of the Lord?

*Call to Worship

Come, all who are born of God and abide in the love revealed in Jesus.

We are here!

Let our hands and voices echo God's praise!

Let our lips pour out a joyful noise.

Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.

Sing a new song to God who does marvelous things.

Obey God's commandments which are not burdensome.

We clap our hands and sing for joy!

We live by faith that conquers the world.

*Prayer of Invocation

Come, Holy Spirit, to lift us from empty routines to the surprising joy of your love. Loosen our tongues to praise you with sincere delight. Open our hearts to trust your leading through times of difficulty and days of despair. Calm our doubts and guide us through the mires of fear. You have called us together for mutual support in a time of worship that unites our spirits. We remember that we have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Teach us to follow where Christ leads. Amen.

*Hymn "Shout to the Lord"

I John 5:1-13 *New Revised Standard Version*

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. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Psalm 98 #818 *UMH* Reading responsively and singing response #2 where indicated.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

*Hymn "Sanctuary"

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, we confess to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our favor, while ignoring the commandments you have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts you entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for you. Cleanse us from these destructive ways, freeing us to love you as you have loved us. *Time of Silent Prayer*

Assurance

Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day When will we celebrate Ascension of the Lord?

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

Song of Offering "My Gratitude"

Sermon "Love Wins" Rev. Joyce Rich

Holy Communion

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise . . . join their unending hymn:

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!

All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus . . . as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection . . . now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together the Lord's Prayer:

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. Amen.

Blessing of the Elements

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Sharing of the Elements *Starting from the front of the church, use the center aisle to come forward to receive a piece of gluten-free bread and a cup of grape juice. Please return to your seat by the side aisles. If it would make more sense for the Pastor to bring the elements to you, please hold your hand up when those standing have been served.*

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of our Lord Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** “Come, Share the Lord”

***Commission and Blessing**

Live in the joy of Christ’s love and in all the marvelous things that God is doing!

We will glory in God, share the love of Christ, and go with the Holy Spirit!

Amen. **And Amen.**

Announcements

Read for Next Week: Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-26

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; **Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; and **The United Methodist Book of Worship** © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.*