

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Kurt Christenson, *pastor*

Joe DeMers, *piano*

Mary Ann Horton, *lector*

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World

Franklin L. Sheppard

LITANY FOR THE FOUR DIRECTIONS & LITANY FOR GUIDANCE

Leader: Let us give thanks for the East, for the ancient hills and valleys and streams without end, for the green Atlantic from the reaches of Maine to the Florida Keys, for larch and hemlock, for black bear and mountain trout, for cardinals and eastern bluebirds, for the sprouting hayfields of Spring:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the East.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the West, for soaring mountains and searing deserts, for waters roaring into the Pacific Ocean, for Columbia River salmon, snow buntings and western meadowlarks, for ponderosa and Jeffrey pine, for the mists of the Oregon coast and for the Olympic peninsula, for the dry Anza-Borrego and the life-giving Colorado River:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the West.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the North, for the bright band of prairie and wheatfields stretching across the land, for the jayhawk and the loon, for the badlands of the Dakotas and the lakes of Minnesota, for northern pike and steeleye, for winding two-lane blacktops in the heart of Wyoming.

Response: We bless you, O God, for the North.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the South, for the broad Mississippi delta and the great Smokey Mountains, for the bayous of Louisiana, for magnolia trees, for the kiskadee and egret, for catfish and parrotfish and for the cotton and the colors on the sands and strands of the southland:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the South.

Leader: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: We are born citizens of God's world.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: Give us a clear vision, O God.

Leader: May our sights be greater than house to house.

People: Give us clear vision, O God.

Leader: Grant us the knowledge to make tough choices for our world.

People: God, year with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Cause us to share life from generation to generation.

People: God, you are with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Challenge our stewardship to renew the heights with living things.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth.

Leader: Many and great are your things, O God, maker of earth and sky.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. Amen.

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www.WebofCreation.org Lutheran School of Theology Chicago*

HYMN

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;
3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true

it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C).

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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 LESSON: Acts 17:22-31

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.”

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-14, 16

Creative Spirits Creation Project

Original Art, Torn Temple Curtain, by Lee Kaercher 2020

Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.
Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a spacious place.
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.
Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ***Alleluia.*** (John 14:23)

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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.”

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

BISHOP EATON'S STATEMENT ON COVID-19 RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY

read by Martha Radatz

INVITATION INTO THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

ANTHEM

Waterlife

Handt Hanson

sung by Hannah & Martha DeMers; accompanied by Joe DeMers

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

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 forever. Amen.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go now into the world.

Search for the God who is not far from each one of us.

Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is in you.

Keep your conscience clear

as you live the commandments in love.

And may God greet your prayers with constant love;

May Christ Jesus give you life through his own life;

And may the Spirit of truth abide with you and within you, always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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POSTLUDE

Earth and All Stars!

David N. Johnson