

Worship Plan for the Sixth Sunday of Easter A, May 14, 2023

PRELUDE

A BRIEF LITANY OF GOD'S ACTS

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P In the beginning, before the beginning, there was only chaos and emptiness. No light. Literally no ground to stand upon—Alone and without life.

C But God created all that is, seen and unseen, and has declared it good. Light, a firm foundation, life.

P At the river's edge, Pharaoh's chariots hounded us.

We were penned in. There was no escape.

**C The seas have parted, we find ourselves safe on the other side.
We are freed!**

P We are sore, working mightily, for no pay. Away in a strange land. Where can we turn?

**C O' tired ones eat what is good, delight in the richness on offer.
Turn to the Lord!**

P It is claustrophobic. It is loud. The heat of the fiery furnace raises our blood pressure and adrenaline.

C Find comfort, the LORD is with us. In the furnace with us—so that we will come out unharmed.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,

C so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

P For if we have been united with him in a death like his,

C we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN LBW #315 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



♩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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



♩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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



♩ Lord, have mer - cy.

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



♩ A - men

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. III Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. IV For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

First Reading: 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."

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 66



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.
**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

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

**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.

**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

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

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

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

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

Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. R

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.

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia."

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the lyrics: "Glo - ry to you, O Lord."

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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

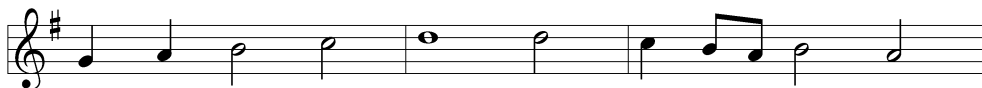
The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the lyrics: "Praise to you, O Christ."

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW#122 "Love Consecrates the Humblest Act"



1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and
2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ
3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what



ha - loes mer - cy's deeds; it sheds a ben - e -
knelt and washed the feet of his dis - ci - ples,
Christ in love so true has free - ly done for



dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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**

THE PRAYERS

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

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Song of Joy"

-Jay Althouse

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Let us pray,
 Merciful God,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF THANKSGIVING

P As we prepare for this Thanksgiving meal, let us pause and reflect on what we are thankful for since we last received Holy Communion.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

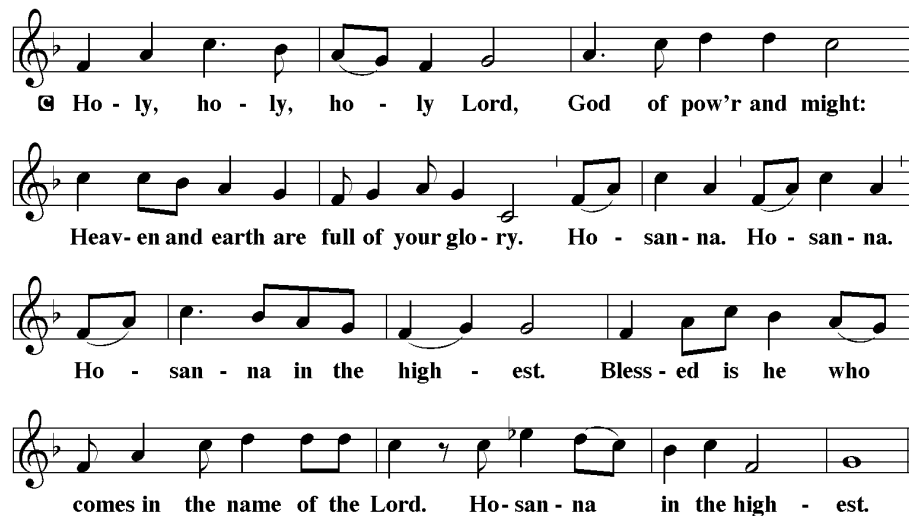
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
might- y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD'S PRAYER

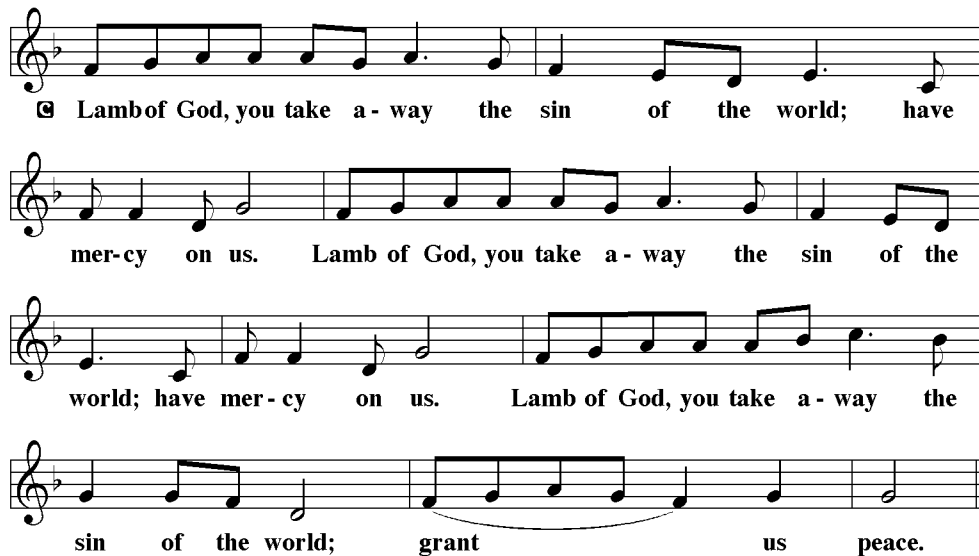
P Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.

Amen

BENEDICTUS



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

HYMN

LBW#534

“Now Thank We All Our God”

