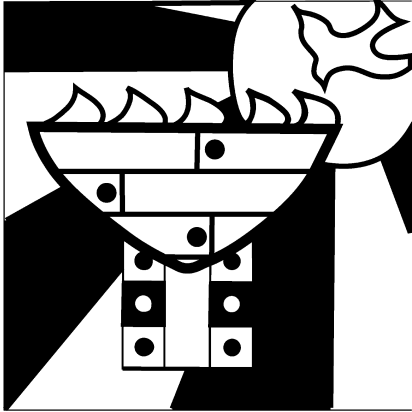


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

You may send your photos and/or God Stories to GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org. Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful and just God,

People: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Pastor: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of † Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee



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.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the Lent-Easter bucket collection (Disaster Response).

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"If You Love Me"

*LS Choir Trio
Natalie Sleeth*

FIRST READING

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

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." (Acts 17:22-31)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lector: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,

People: nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

Lector: A reading from 1 Peter.

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. (1 Peter 3:13-22)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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." (John 14:15-21)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Open Up"

*You heard the cry of our hearts
and you came down
Freely you gave us your love
showing us how (Chorus)*

Make me an in - stru - ment of Your peace, where there is ha - tred let
me sow love, where there is dark - ness let me shine light and
May Your love cause us to o - pen up, cause us to o - pen up our hearts.
May Your light cause us to shine so bright that we bring hope in - to the dark.

*All that we do without love
it means nothing
Grant us the courage to give
as you're calling (Chorus)*

*May we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love*

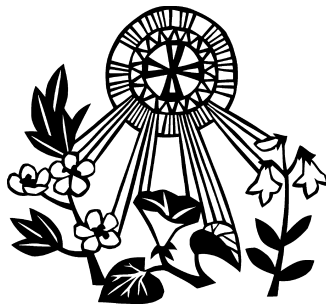
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NICENE CREED

People: 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.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially *Margaret Blank; Nancy Baldwin; Bunie Talbert; Charles Kauffman; JoAnn Pulse; Freas/Wittle/Pollard families; Miles; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face continued uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: 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 with your love and grace, for service in your name in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your 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.

Pastor: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

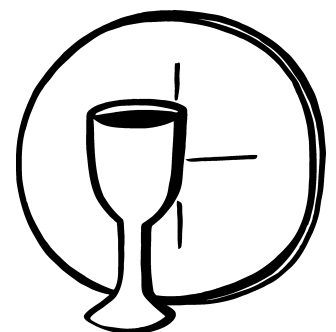
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.




DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After today's streaming worship will conclude with an optional distribution of Holy Communion in the church parking lot. You can arrive at any time between 11:30 and 12:30 in your vehicle. We will utilize sanitary-packaged individual communion elements, which have been consecrated during the worship service. There will be an "usher" in the parking lot to direct vehicles to the distribution altar, and the pastor will be there, wearing mask and gloves (he will change gloves after each vehicle). Everyone please remain in your vehicle throughout the process. Once it's your turn, drive up and put your vehicle in park. The pastor will come to your car window(s) to distribute Holy Communion. AFTER you have consumed the elements, the Pastor will offer a blessing – and then you can pull away. While in the parking lot, everyone should be in prayerful worship-mode, as you represent God's people gathered to continue the worship experience from the morning service. Think of this in the same way you would think about "coming up to the altar rail for distribution" in your vehicle during an ongoing worship service.


SONG FOR REFLECTION

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"

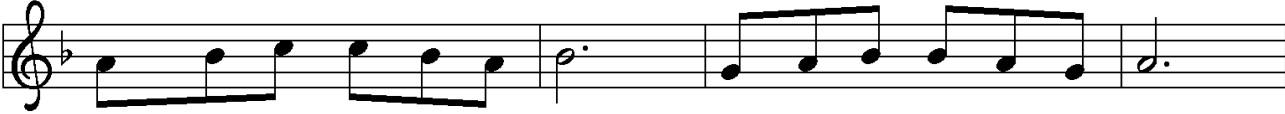
Refrain



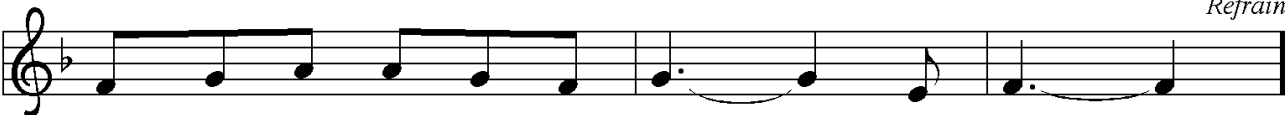
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin; © 1969 Hope Publishing Company; All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING THE RISEN JESUS SENDING US INTO THE WORLD +

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING & PRAYER

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

People: Amen

Pastor: Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.



SENDING HYMN

"No Greater Love"

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)

Verse 1

For the city for the world we pray
Let Your light shine down
Come around and live in us
For the close and the far away
Ev'rywhere You are ev'rywhere (Chorus)

Verse 2

To the city to the world we go
Set us free heal the land
You have promised God You can
To the last and the least we go
Ev'rywhere You are ev'rywhere (Chorus/Bridge)



Ev - 'ry - where,



You are ev - 'ry - where. And we lift

CHORUS



high the ban - ner of the cross, there is no great - er love than this, no



love but this. Je - sus Christ laid down His life for us, there is no great - er



love than His, no love but His.

BRIDGE



love but His. In the poor, in the bro - ken, in the



crowd - ed cit - y streets, in the tow - ers, in the mon - ey, in the strong and in the weak, in the



or - phans and the wid - ows, in the church - es and the bars— You are ev - 'ry - where,



God, You are ev - 'ry - where. And we lift

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Easter Seasonal Emphasis

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!" - Matthew 28:5-6

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

I'll Not Turn Away

It's all about the relationship of love. Love is the first and the greatest of commandments, according to Jesus. This is the gospel of the Lord!

The two men seemed dissimilar in almost every way: their color, their age, their education and careers, their families and sexuality, the worlds they knew and the lives they had lived. All of it registered as a natural, albeit unconsidered, divide. When circumstances they could never have anticipated brought them together, the two began to accompany one another through years of capsized lives. They walked side by side in body and spirit, carrying along one another's stories, fears, losses, regrets, and joys, each daring to let them slip into his heart. Amid the ebb and flow of seasons, the unlikely companions discovered in one another stories that were their own. Something of each of them was in the other.

Call this grace: the wretched demons of loneliness that had haunted both men stumbled, adrift in the wake of the companions' fellowship.

Still, they knew that parting was ahead. The days of walking, conversing, and trusting the companionship would soon come to an end. So they began to speak of their impending separation in this way: "This is my promise: I'll see you on the other side of this." It was repeated with other words, which always meant "I will not turn away from you." Call this the gospel story.

Grace is found in mystery, when strange circumstances confound expectations. Love is found in experience, when trust is discovered and nurtured. In a form we are not looking for, another—the Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, Spirit—will come to us.

"I will not leave you orphaned," says Jesus. "I am coming to you" (John 14:18). It's all about the relationship of love.

May Books of the Month: 1 & 2 Corinthians

