

*May 17, 2020*  
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*Welcome to our service of Holy Eucharist. All are welcome, we are glad that you are here. The people are invited to join in everything that is in **BOLD** type, while the Celebrant will speak the plain type.*

*The people stand.*

*Entrance Hymn*

*Greeting*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

There is one body and one Spirit;  
**there is one hope in God's call to us;**  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
**one God, the Source of all being.**

**GLORIA**

**Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo, Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia (2)**

*Collect of the Day*

Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
riches beyond imagination.  
Pour into our hearts such love toward you,  
that we, loving you above all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. Amen.

# *The Proclamation of the Word*

*The people sit.*

## **PSALM 66: 1, 7-10, 14-18**

- 1 Be joyful in God, all you lands;\*  
+ sing the glory of God's Name; sing the glory of God's praise.
- 7 Bless our God, you peoples;\*  
make the voice of praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life,\*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us;\*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare,\*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,\*  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- 15 I called out to the Most High with my mouth,\*  
with God's praise on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart,\*  
God would not have heard me.
- 17 But in truth you have heard me;\*  
you have attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed are you for you have not rejected my prayer,\*  
nor withheld your love from me.

**Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,  
and to the Spirit, indwelling:\*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading: A Reading from First Peter 3:13—22

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,<sup>[b]</sup> and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> 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; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence.<sup>[c]</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also



beak pointing out. It felt like a real blessing. A mother -- or father, I'm not sure -- hummingbird feeding their young.

Deeper than all that is wrong with the world, all of the confusion, the loneliness, the sickness, the loss, there remains the promise of God's presence. That never goes away. That is what today's Gospel reading is about. God will never leave us orphaned. Take a minute and let that land. You are not alone. Even if you think you are, even if it seems so hard. Even if you are happy and everything is going your way -- there is a prayer we say in the Anglican church at night time, it is a beautiful prayer, I will add it to the end of my written sermon, but one of the lines is "shield the joyous".

So this is the week, in our lectionary, that we hear about the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let's do an experiment. Let's imagine that we are sitting there, this is during the Last Supper, this is something called, Jesus' farewell discourse.

Imagine yourself among the disciples: they lived in difficult times, under the occupation of a cruel empire. They lived without the fullness of life that God had promised to all of God's children. It was truly a time of trial for many. Some were okay, maybe, those who had agreed to go along with the Roman authorities. Maybe some were even better off, maybe some were rich, collecting and pocketing taxes. Probably most were afraid, or at least conforming to the way things were. Don't rock the boat. Don't poke the lion. And they were right! A few decades after the death of Jesus, the Jewish people rose up against their Roman oppressors, and the uprising was a catastrophe! They failed to push out the occupiers. Their temple was destroyed and they were scattered. (And don't forget, the Gospel of John was not written shortly after the time of Jesus' crucifixion, but some 70 years later, when the failed Jewish uprising was already 40 years in the past. They KNEW what had happened.)

But let's imagine that we are with Jesus, in the warm circle of his friends, before his murder. We have believed this wandering prophet. Perhaps we were sick, and he healed us. Perhaps we were among the rejected ones, and we were welcomed. Perhaps we were well-off, privileged, but we realized that the cost of greed was living out of right-relationship with others, and that this was not God's way. We had thrown our lot in with this strange fellow, Jesus. We have hope, we love Him. We love our little close band of believers. And now what? He is saying that he's going away? Our lives are about to be shattered.

This going away part of the Jesus story, the going away part in our lives, is almost unbearable. How can we ever survive? But Jesus *must* go away. If he doesn't we will never get the true point of what he came to give us. He came, not for us to love him, precisely, but that we would learn to truly love one another. That's the point. Because we love Jesus, we love one another, and lo and behold, we find we are loved by the One Who Made All Things.

But Jesus knew that it would be hard, and that's why we have his promise of this day: I will send another. The Advocate, the Comforter, the Spirit, who breathes all life into being.

We are preparing in a few weeks to celebrate Pentecost: that is the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, the promise that Jesus makes this day. Today we are still waiting, but it is not too early to pray for these things: O Holy Spirit, by whose breath life rises vibrant out of death, come to create, renew, inspire, kindle in our hearts your fire.

Beloved friends, hold on just a little while longer, everything will be alright.

Here's that prayer for Compline:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this **night**, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, **shield** the **joyous**; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

## *An Affirmation of the Resurrection*

*The people stand,*

I believe in God  
Creator of the Universe  
Dwelling forever beyond time and space.  
I believe in Jesus Christ  
Who came to live amongst us  
And let us see what God is like.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Sent by God through Jesus  
To be our guide and comforter.  
Therefore I believe in Love  
In hope, compassion, joy and faith  
Forgiveness and eternal life.

*(Frances Sommerville, One Woman's Creed)*

## *PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*

*The people stand, sit or kneel.*

Let us now demonstrate the hope that fills our hearts by turning to God in prayer, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all ministers of the Gospel that they may preach the word boldly and without apology. We pray especially for our Bishop Melissa who is charged with making difficult decisions during these difficult times, and for our priests Emilie and Mavis who are working faithfully for our St. Barnabas community.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all leaders of nations, that they may be unrelenting in their quest for peace. We pray especially for our national and provincial leaders and our public health officials who are working around the clock to assure our health and safety.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all the suffering peoples of this world. Many countless are sick and many more countless have died during this pandemic. The world is facing struggles it has not seen in a century. Be with us, and us with you, O Lord, during these troubling times. Grant us patience, compassion and peace.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all those among us who experience desolation, especially those for whom God seems most remote. There is unprecedented isolation experienced by our neighbours at this time. Help us respond to this injustice through our actions and prayer.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all the sick and dying. So much suffering is all around us, so much need exists in our community. Give us strength and fortitude to respond with love and hope.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

Empower with your spirit, O Lord, all who have departed this life. We pray especially for Jason and Leif our brothers who have recently passed away. We pray for all those who mourn, especially our beloved sister Donna whose heart is heavy.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, it is in the power of your life-giving and abundant spirit that we call upon you in prayer. Deepen our hope in your presence and your promise; hear us in your tender love, now and forever, Amen.

## *Confession*

*The people stand.*

**Holy and Compassionate One.**

**We acknowledge before you, that we have fallen short of the glory you have laid out before us.**

In your mercy, forgive us our wrongdoings,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life.  
to honour and glory of your name. Amen

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Loving Creator, Father and Mother, have mercy on us,  
forgive us for forgetting to love, and renew our ability  
to give and receive love in all that we do. Amen.

*The Peace:* The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
And also with you.

#### *Offertory Hymn:* CP Come Holy Spirit

*During the offertory hymn we bring to the altar our gifts of bread and wine, and our financial offerings.*

#### *Eucharistic Prayer*

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.**

Blessed are you, gracious God . . .

.....to proclaim the glory of your name.

#### *Sanctus*

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

Therefore, Creator, according to his command:

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.

And we offer our sacrifice . . . .

...now and for ever.

Amen.

## *The Prayer After Communion*

*The people stand.*

Let us pray:

Life-giving God,  
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection  
you send light to conquer darkness,  
water to give new life,  
and the bread of life to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,  
so that we may show your glory to all the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Glory to God,  
whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## *Community Announcements*

### *Priest`s Blessing*

### *Sending Hymn: Hold On*

Sending out:

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!