# May 14, 2023: Sixth Sunday of Easter: Unknown God Made Visible

# Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.** 

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

# Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

# Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

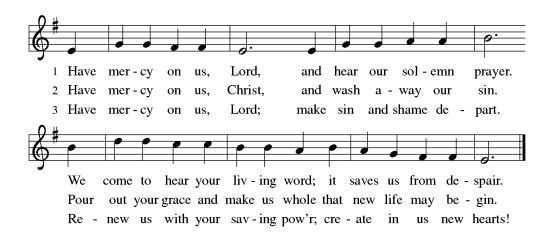
We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

# GATHERING SONG This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)

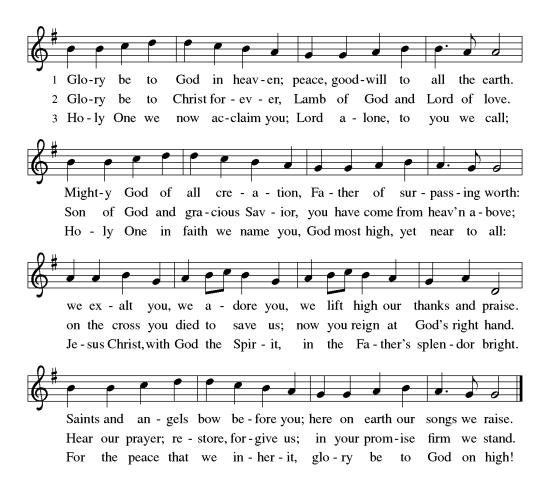


# **Kyrie (ELW p. 203)**

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".



# Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 204)



### 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.** 

#### Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST READING: Acts 17:16-34

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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, <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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.'

<sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>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."

<sup>32</sup>When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." <sup>33</sup>At that point Paul left them. <sup>34</sup>But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20**



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Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

Our God has kept us a-1 mong the living and has not allowed our 1 feet to slip. R

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have I tested us;

you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

**11You brought us in- | to the net;** 

you laid heavy burdens up-1 on our backs.

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water, but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>I will enter your house | with burnt offerings

and will pay you my vows—

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

 ${}^{15}\boldsymbol{I}$  will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the  ${}^{1}\boldsymbol{s}$  moke of rams;

I will give you ox- | en and goats. R

- <sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- <sup>17</sup>I called out to God | with my mouth, and praised the Lord | with my tongue.
- <sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
- 19but in truth | God has heard me and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.
- <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer, nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

<sup>13</sup>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, 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. 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 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel using the words of Peter in John 6:6



#### **GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>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."

The gospel of the Lord.

#### Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

# HYMN OF THE DAY Loving Spirit (ELW 397)





you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me. your flesh and bone. feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of hoist me up up - on your shoul-der, let me see the world from high. your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres-ence I you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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#### **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.

# **Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends with the words "Hear us, O God" and the assembly responds with "Your mercy is great."

#### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you."

#### Anthem:

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

# **Offering Prayer**

# **Great Thanksgiving Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

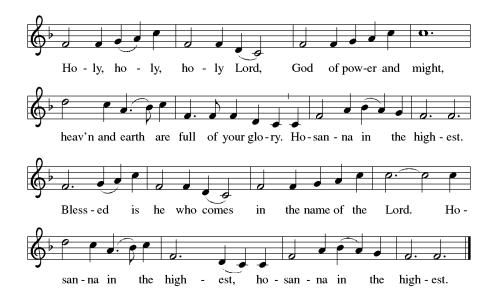
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 190)



#### **Words of Institution**

### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

### Lamb of God



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

# **Prayer after Communion**

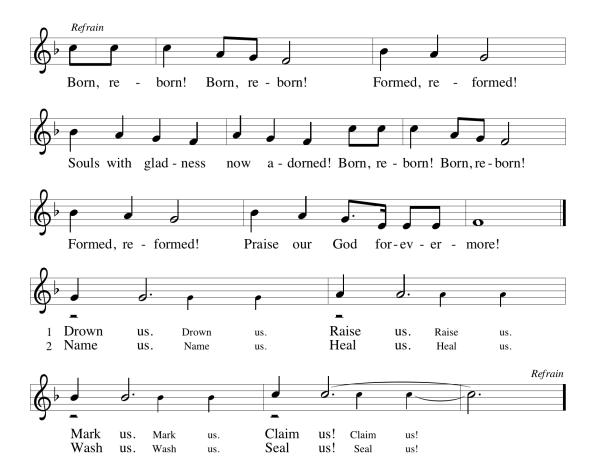
Let us pray.

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, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

### **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.** 

# SENDING SONG Born, Reborn (ACS 956)



Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980

Music: BORN, REBORN, Justin Rimbo Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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