



## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER MAY 17, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP – Sunday morning Belleville Bells ~ 10:00am

### WELCOME

This is Rev. Ela Robertson, pastor for St. John's Lutheran and West Kish Presbyterian in Belleville, PA. We joyously ring in our worship with the bells of St. Johns and West Kish, welcoming all listeners to this service on the 6th Sunday in the Easter Season and the first Sunday after the Ascension of the Lord in our church calendar. Our worship team this morning includes: David Eley – reflection on the gospel; Lisa Griffith – cantor and singer; Reuben Shetler cantor and reader; John Haubrick – organ; Bill Cullingford – recording tech; and Joy Byler and Kelly Byler – providing our bulletins. The broadcast does not include everything in the bulletin. As we continue in this series of recorded broadcasts we celebrate the opportunity to bring many voices together from our neighborhoods here in Big Valley, from other states and even across the ocean.

Through the Holy Spirit, let us invite Christ into our hearts through our worship today.

### OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, in who we live and move and have our being, help us to choose life in you, that we may keep the commands of Jesus, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and witness to the hope that is within us, sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.

Our first hymn is Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty printed in your bulletin.

HYMN ~ “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

*next page*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess to the One who is steadfast love.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brother, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace

# Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

421

NICAEA 11.12.12.10.

Reginald Heber, 1826

John B. Dykes, 1861

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

KYRIE ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

P: Kyrie Eleison **Lord Have Mercy**

P: Christe Eleison **Christ Have Mercy**

P: Kyrie Eleison **Lord Have Mercy**

## THE PEACE

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Let us extend the peace, to the North, South, East and West, beyond the walls of our homes and into the world.

## GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

## PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate. Open our hearts and minds this day; entice us with your presence. Spark us with a word of life – a message that we may share with others as we seek to live Christ's love in the world. All this we ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Amen.

LESSONS and PSALM (you are encouraged to read these in your celebrate, bulletin or Bible before the service.)

First Reading Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20, refrain Ps. 66.8

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

## REFLECTION on THE LESSONS

*Praise Among the Living.* Rev. Ela J. Robertson

The first two verses of our Psalm reading are a prayer of Thanksgiving that we could be bringing to God every day, especially every day of this Covid 19 challenge:

For the Psalmist those who are giving this prayer, those worshipping God with this prayer of Thanksgiving are ones who have been kept among the living. While this may seem obvious, today every one of us who is reading this bulletin, listening to this worship broadcast, praying this prayer is among the living - and thanks be to God we are! We do not like the stay at home order but for the most part we have observed it. God has protected us. Yet, “don’t tempt God or don’t flaunt God” are words I often hear from Church leadership. Act in fellowship with God to take care of ourselves and to extend Christ’s love to brother, sister and neighbor both near and far, - acting to protect them, in every way we can to help keep all of us among the living as community and this is important not just medically but theologically.

E-mails and Zoom meetings for the last two months from both the Presbytery and the Lutheran Synod have centered around how the church needs to be responding to the Covid 19 pandemic in terms of scheduling and maintaining safety precautions and protecting our congregants, and now in terms of how we will plan to gather for worship again in a way that will extend this love and ensure safety for all. The Bishop recently emphasized the theological reasons behind this. We, as Psalm 66, says, are ‘among the living’ to ‘let the sound of praise be heard!’ The mission of the church, as captured so well in the title of the “Glory to God” hymnal of the Presbyterian Church, is to glorify God.

Worship is important. How can we facilitate while considering the ever changing Covid-19 guidelines? It was a God wink that the local radio station stepped in to help.

Fellowship is important. How can we facilitate this when we cannot meet for worship and church activities? New forms of outreach have been essential and heartwarming.

Spiritual growth and strength is important. How can we, know, recognize and extend the inner Christ in each of us during this time? Have we used this time of isolation to our advantage to explore and pray about this? Our Gospel reading today speaks right to this and our Friend, David, will be sharing his experience.

Fellowship is important. How can we facilitate this when we cannot meet for worship and church activities? New forms of outreach have been essential and heartwarming.

The Church is important. Our reading from Peter last week refers to disciples as living stones who build up the body of Christ, the reign of God’s love on earth. And as Bishop Collins said, we need to be alive to do that; alive in body, mind and spirit. We need to be ready, reverent, committed to glorifying God in what we do, say and reveal about who Christ is in our lives and how it affects our plans as the church day to day.

The last verses of the Psalm 66 offer praise again: *In truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer. Blessed be God who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.* God’s steadfast love is with us always.

The Gospel of John is known as the Gospel that describes most directly, elegantly and visually the unfailing love of God in Christ and Christ in us. Annie Harshbarger ended her homily on John 14: 1-14 last week with *God is here with us now, within us and our neighbors.*” Among Christian denominations, the Quakers or the Society of Friends, perhaps more than any other group take this vision of Christ within us and our neighbors as key to their identity as Christians. John 14 and 15 are two chapters that in particular lift this up.

Another tradition is that of traveling or visiting ministers. Belleville is fortunate to have a Quaker traveling minister in residence. Any other ‘normal’ time we would not have this opportunity to hear from our ecumenical partners as we’re all busy on Sunday mornings! During normal times David travels to over 100 meetings and congregations around Pennsylvania and the country. With John 14 in our lectionary readings these last two weeks this a perfect time for him to travel to our meeting over the airwaves today. So we continue with the Gospel acclamation, reading, and personal reflections on John 14 from David Eley, a recorded minister and member of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Thank you David.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ (sung by Lisa Griffith)

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.*

HOLY GOSPEL ~ John 14:15-23

REFLECTION on the GOSPEL David Eley

SILENT PRAYER and REFLECTION with MUSIC



## HYMN ~ “What Wondrous Love is This”

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll

caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my  
 is the great I Am, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 sing his love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

## MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ Matt Waddell

From the Mission Committee at West Kish: Sometimes it is hard to see Christ's love during the current pandemic. We are focused on ourselves and how it affects us personally. We just want the whole mess to end, so things can get back to “normal”. If we open our eyes we can see Christ's love and the joy it brings, even during difficult times.

At St. John's and West Kish we have witnessed this love during the pandemic in many ways;

- ◆ Cards being sent
- ◆ Texts, emails, and phone calls being made
- ◆ Tithes and offerings continuing
- ◆ Flowers being delivered
- ◆ Meals being prepared and delivered
- ◆ Prayers being lifted, sermons being preached, songs being sung – not only in our homes but also online, on TV and on the radio.

It is awesome to witness the love of Christ in our community during the last few weeks. Please continue to open your eyes and hearts to see opportunities to show Christian love during the coming weeks! LOVE WINS!

OFFERTORY (you may submit your offering by mail, drop it off at the church or include it your automatic bill paying program from your bank.)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God, the divine giver, gifts us with life and breath and all that is. In gratitude, we offer our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ. O loving God, we give you thanks that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commands.**

Please read the APOSTLES CREED at home- Proclaiming our Faith  
 APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS of the CHURCH ~ *Please pray the prayers in the celebrate insert, on our prayer list and for all the concerns you hold in your heart.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to a God that listens and gives heed to our prayers.  
Open our eyes to find you among us as we share your love with others.  
Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We remember before you all who have died due to Covid to date and pray for all who will die today and in the coming weeks that they may know your peace. Bless us with the gift of faith, that we may know you and love you, and enjoy life eternal shared with you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Embracing Lord, Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER *(at home)*

**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 today our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses (debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us (debtors); 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.**

#### BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers, God has heard you and given heed to your prayers. Therefore, go in peace to serve Christ, and always be eager to do what is good. May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains, keep you steadfast in faith, buoyant in hope, and abounding in love. The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

#### HYMN ~ "Blessed Assurance"

Parts of our liturgy today are adapted from Sundays and Seasons from Augsburg Fortress and from Kimberly Bracken Long. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Volume 1 John Knox Press.

#### LIFE IN CHRIST

## 341 Whak Shil Hahn Nah Eh Kahn Jeung Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE 9.10.9.9 with refrain

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873

Transliteration of Korean: Myung Ja Yue, 1989

Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 187

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 9/8 time signature. The score is divided into several systems, each with vocal staves and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are provided in English and Korean transliteration. The first system includes two verses of the hymn. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system includes a refrain. The fourth system continues the lyrics. The fifth system includes a refrain. The sixth system continues the lyrics. The seventh system includes a refrain. The eighth system continues the lyrics. The ninth system includes a refrain. The tenth system continues the lyrics. The eleventh system includes a refrain. The twelfth system continues the lyrics. The thirteenth system includes a refrain. The fourteenth system continues the lyrics. The fifteenth system includes a refrain. The sixteenth system continues the lyrics. The seventeenth system includes a refrain. The eighteenth system continues the lyrics. The nineteenth system includes a refrain. The twentieth system continues the lyrics. The twenty-first system includes a refrain. The twenty-second system continues the lyrics. The twenty-third system includes a refrain. The twenty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The twenty-fifth system includes a refrain. The twenty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The twenty-seventh system includes a refrain. The twenty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The twenty-ninth system includes a refrain. The thirtieth system continues the lyrics. The thirty-first system includes a refrain. The thirty-second system continues the lyrics. The thirty-third system includes a refrain. The thirty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The thirty-fifth system includes a refrain. The thirty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The thirty-seventh system includes a refrain. The thirty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The thirty-ninth system includes a refrain. The fortieth system continues the lyrics. The forty-first system includes a refrain. The forty-second system continues the lyrics. The forty-third system includes a refrain. The forty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The forty-fifth system includes a refrain. The forty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The forty-seventh system includes a refrain. The forty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The forty-ninth system includes a refrain. The fiftieth system continues the lyrics. The fifty-first system includes a refrain. The fifty-second system continues the lyrics. The fifty-third system includes a refrain. The fifty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The fifty-fifth system includes a refrain. The fifty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The fifty-seventh system includes a refrain. The fifty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The fifty-ninth system includes a refrain. The sixtieth system continues the lyrics. The sixty-first system includes a refrain. The sixty-second system continues the lyrics. The sixty-third system includes a refrain. The sixty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The sixty-fifth system includes a refrain. The sixty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The sixty-seventh system includes a refrain. The sixty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The sixty-ninth system includes a refrain. The seventieth system continues the lyrics. The seventy-first system includes a refrain. The seventy-second system continues the lyrics. The seventy-third system includes a refrain. The seventy-fourth system continues the lyrics. The seventy-fifth system includes a refrain. The seventy-sixth system continues the lyrics. The seventy-seventh system includes a refrain. The seventy-eighth system continues the lyrics. The seventy-ninth system includes a refrain. The eightieth system continues the lyrics. The eighty-first system includes a refrain. The eighty-second system continues the lyrics. The eighty-third system includes a refrain. The eighty-fourth system continues the lyrics. The eighty-fifth system includes a refrain. The eighty-sixth system continues the lyrics. The eighty-seventh system includes a refrain. The eighty-eighth system continues the lyrics. The eighty-ninth system includes a refrain. The ninetieth system continues the lyrics. The ninety-first system includes a refrain. The ninety-second system continues the lyrics. The ninety-third system includes a refrain. The ninety-fourth system continues the lyrics. The ninety-fifth system includes a refrain. The ninety-sixth system continues the lyrics. The ninety-seventh system includes a refrain. The ninety-eighth system continues the lyrics. The ninety-ninth system includes a refrain. The hundredth system continues the lyrics.

1. Ye su rul nae ga joo ro mee duh Sung nyung gwa  
2. Ye su keh maat kin nah eh ma um Sa rahng eh  
1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, Vi - sions of  
pee ro ssuh kuh dum nah nee Seh sahng eh in nun  
sok sah gim tu ru myun suh Heen oh sul ee bun  
fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,  
rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels, de - scend - ing,  
nae young hon ee Ha nu reh young gwang noo ree doh dah  
chun sah dul gwa Shin bee hahn whan sahng bo ree ro dah  
pur - chase of God, Born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.  
bring from a - bove Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
Hooryum Refrain  
Ee go she nah eh kahn jeung ee yo Ee go she  
This is my sto - ry, this is my song, Prais - ing my

*Hymn continued on next page...*



nah eh chan song ee rah Nah sah nun dong ahn  
Sav - ior all the day long; This is my sto - ry,  
ggeun im up see Ye su eh ee rum chan song hah ree  
this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

3. Joo ahn eh ees suh jeul guh wuh rah Ma um eh Poong nahng ee jahm jah doh dah  
Seh sahng doh up go na doh up go Sa rahng eh joo mahn bo ee doh dah  
Hooryum

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.  
Refrain

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123  
**Church Office:** 935-2032 Email us at [stjohnco@embarqmail.com](mailto:stjohnco@embarqmail.com)  
**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Sally Johnson, Jane Cullen, Mary Byler (mother of Jay Byler), Audrey Michael, Sally Shingler (in VVH), Donna Snook (in a nursing facility under Hospice care) sisters of Lucy Magda, Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith, Nancy Aumiller.

We continue to air our Sunday worship at 10:30am on radio stations AM 670 or FM 92.9 or [biglewie.com](http://biglewie.com). Scroll down and click on 'Listen'.

The Central PA Clinic for Special Children and Adults normally have their fundraising auction in May, however with the COVID crisis, they were unable to have it. They are in an unfortunate situation as there is a limited cash reserve for operating costs. You may send donations to: P.O. Box 5806, Belleville, PA 17004.

**Due to the cancellation of the VFW Memorial Day Parade, because of COVID-19, Belleville residents are invited to join in a "Vehicle Parade" on Monday, May 25.**

This parade of cars through Belleville is to celebrate Memorial Day, our Veterans still living and those who have died, and is also in honor of healthcare and other essential workers who have and continue to put the needs of others before their own, during this pandemic.

Please meet at **8:45am** at Boring's Garage (West Main St.) or at St. John's. A police cruiser, fire truck and ambulance will lead the way; just join in the line of cars. The route will cover Main Street, Shawnee Hills, Poe Street and Valley View Village.

Belleville residents, who would like to participate, are invited to decorate their cars in red, white and blue, with flags or however creative you wish to be. We hope you will join us either in the parade or by watching from your home.

As most of you have heard, there was a tragic fire last week which displaced over 100 people who lived in the Blair House Apartment complex. At this time, monetary donations are greatly needed. If you would like to contribute to help the fire victims, you can either send it to the church (we will send a check for all donations received) and notate *Blair House Fire* or mail it to ~ the Huntingdon Presbyterian Church, 508 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652 and notate "Blair Building Fire Relief".

There is an ecumenical group initiating a food drive for workers at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital. Pastors will be going to pray together and take in food. They are not allowed to take home made items, so they must be purchased snacks. If you would like to donate either snacks or monetary donations toward the food, please contact the church office or Pastor Ela.

**The denominational leaders** are advising churches on possible *stage yellow* transition plans, and our council/session will be discerning how best to proceed at our May meeting. Pastor would really like people to let us know your personal thoughts on whether or when you would feel safe gathering together for worship in the sanctuary. Please let your Good Shepherd know when they contact you again.

Checking account balance 1/1/20 \$ 16,763.74  
 January ~ May 14  
 Income \$76,010.40 Expense \$69,434.84  
 Net Income \$ 6,575.56





# Celebrate

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020

*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.*

## 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 Reading

Acts 17:22-31

*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.*

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."

## Psalm

Psalm 66:8-20; refrain, Ps. 66:



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

Bless our <sup>1</sup> God, you peoples;  
let the sound of <sup>1</sup> praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- <sup>1</sup> mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>1</sup> feet to slip. R**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have <sup>1</sup> tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- <sup>1</sup> ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- <sup>1</sup> to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- <sup>1</sup> on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through <sup>1</sup> fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place <sup>1</sup> of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house <sup>1</sup> with burnt offerings  
and will pay <sup>1</sup> you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised <sup>1</sup> with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I <sup>1</sup> was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the <sup>1</sup> smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- <sup>1</sup> en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you <sup>1</sup> who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has <sup>1</sup> done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God <sup>1</sup> with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord <sup>1</sup> with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil <sup>1</sup> in my heart,  
the Lord would <sup>1</sup> not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth <sup>1</sup> God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound <sup>1</sup> of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- <sup>1</sup> ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing <sup>1</sup> love from me. R



## Second Reading

### 1 Peter 3:13-22

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

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

### John 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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."

## Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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.*

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, **hear our prayer.**

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 (*local bodies of water may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160) Psalm 93. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 3:8-12. **Wednesday** John 16:16-24. **Thursday** (Ascension of Our Lord; commemoration of Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330) Luke 24:44-53. **Friday** Ephesians 2:1-7. **Saturday** 2 Kings 2:13-15. **Seventh Sunday of Easter** (commemoration of Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists) Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

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You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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