

Introduction to the day: Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

Even So Come

©Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism,

we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

GATHERING SONG *Come to the Water*

Music & lyrics on next page



1. You said You'd come _ and share all my sor - rows. You said You'd
 (2.) good - ness so great _ I can't un - der - stand, _ and dear Lord, I
 3. Je - sus, I give You my heart and my soul, _ I know that with -

6 Cm A♭ B♭ E♭ B♭



be there for all my to - mor - rows. _ I came so close _ to
 know _ that all this was planned. _ I know You're here now and
 -out God I'd nev - er be whole. _ Sav - ior, You o - pened

11 A♭ B♭ A♭/B♭ E♭ Cm A♭



send - ing You a - way. But just like You prom - ised, You came here to _
 al - ways will be, Your love loosed my chains _ and in You I'm _
 all _ the right doors and I thank You and praise You from earth's hum - ble _

16 B♭ A♭/B♭ B♭ E♭ E♭7



stay, _ I just had to pray. _ And Je - sus said,
 free, _ but Je - sus why me? _
 shores, _ Take me, I'm Yours. _

CHORUS

22 A♭ E♭ B♭



"Come to the wa - ter, stand by My _ side; I know you are



thirs - ty, you won't be de - nied. _ I felt ev - 'ry tear -

33 E♭ B♭



-drop when in dark - ness you cried _ and I strove to re - mind

39 E♭ Fm/E♭ E♭



you that for those tears I died." _

44 E♭ Fm/E♭ E♭



2. Your died." _

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Kyrie

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Leader

In peace, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

2

Leader

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

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,
for the health of God's church,
and for all unity, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer - cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

4

Leader

For this holy house,
and we who offer praise, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
A - - - - men

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Wor-thy is the
 Lamb who was slain
 His blood to set us free
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.
 Po-wer, rich-es,
 wis-dom, strength
 Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry

All be-long to God on high.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia
 Sing with all God's
 ho-ly peo-ple
 Join the hy-mn of
 all cre-a-tion
 Bless-ing, hon-or,
 glo-ry, mi-ght
 Be to God and the
 Lamb for-ev-er
 A-men! A-men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.
 For the Lamb who once was slain
 Has be-gun his reign forev-er.
 A - - - - - men!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15 (Barb Morris)

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

A reading from Acts.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67 (Barb Morris)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 (Barb Morris)

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

A reading from Revelation.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

(Lisa Herlocker)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the

Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let The People Praise* ©Aaron Shust

Our God is the God of ___ gods. ___ And our

3 G/B C D Em⁷ C
Lord is the Lord of ___ kings; ___ The re - veal - er ___ of se - crets, of

6 G D/F# C D^{sus} D G G/B Last time to Coda ⊕
mys - ter - ies ___ un - known. ___ Let the peo - ple praise our ___ God. ___

9 C D^{sus} D G Am⁷ C/D
Let the peo - ple praise our ___ God. ___
1. His sov - 'reign ___ rule ___ will last for -
2. He lifts up ___ kings ___ and brings them

12 G Am⁷ C/D G
-ev - er. His king - dom won't de - cline ___ or ___ fall. ___ He
low a - gain. He shows us what is right ___ from ___ wrong. ___

15 C C/D G D/F# Em G/B
does as ___ He pleas - es, both in Heav - en and earth. ___ Whom am I ___
God of ___ all time, ___ we give You thanks and praise, for ___ You have made .

repeat 2 times

— that I — should ques - tion Him — at all? Our
 — us wise, — and You — have made — us strong. Our

⊕ Coda

19 C D^{sus} D G D^{sus} G

Let the peo - ple praise our — God. — Ev - 'ry-thing He does is — right,

22 C D^{sus} G C

and all His ways — are just. — Those who walk in pride He — is a - ble — to hum - ble.

25 D^{sus} G C D^{sus} G

Ev - 'ry-thing He does is — right, and all His ways — are just. — Those who walk in pride He — is

28 C D^{sus} D G C

a - ble — to hum - ble. Our God is the God of — gods. .

31 D G/B C D

— And our Lord is the Lord of — kings; — the re -

34 Em⁷ C G D/F# C D^{sus} D

-veal - er — of se - crets, of mys - ter - ies — un - known. — Let the peo - ple praise our — God. .

Continues next page

37 1. G 2. G G/B C D^{sus} D

Our — Let the peo - ple praise our — God. .

40 G G/B C D^{sus} D G

Let the peo - ple praise our — God. ___

CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world this Easter Season and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Barb Morris)

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones,

clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts.

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

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.
Please follow the directions of the worship leader and the ushers.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Peace Like a River

©John Schroeder

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul *(repeat)*

I've got love like a river
I've got love like a river
I've got love like a river in my soul *(repeat)*

I've got joy like a river
I've got joy like a river
I've got joy like a river in my soul *(repeat)*

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel,
the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God and we will.