

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

The assembly stands as they are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

The service continues with gathering song.

GATHERING SONG: *In Christ There Is No East or West* (ELW 650)

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'In Christ There Is No East or West'. It features a treble and bass staff with four vocal parts. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines corresponding to the vocal parts. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first system and a final double bar line at the end of the second system.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assistant minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Acts.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

The psalm for the day is spoken in unison.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. R**

⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**

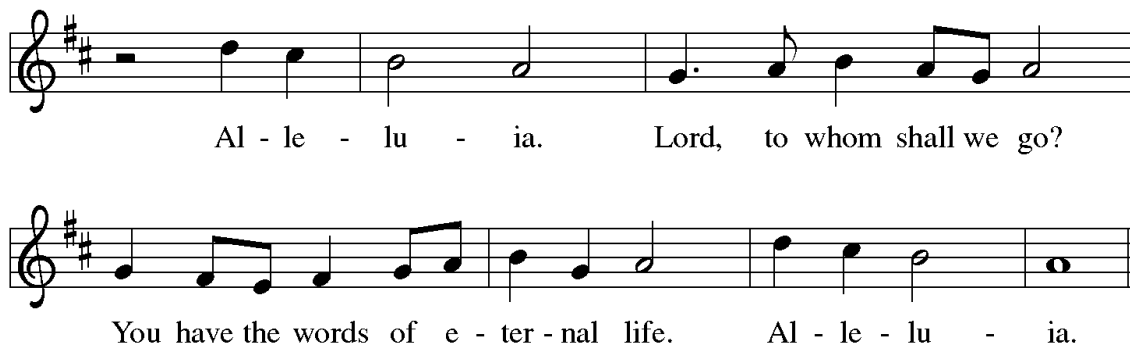
⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to ¹ judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

The assembly stands as they are able to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 105)

The assembly stands as they are able. The assistant minister leads the Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the intercessory prayers.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for . . .*)

Be especially with all those we name now: Maureen (4/28/24), Mila (4/28/24), Simion (3/24/24), Adelina (3/24/24), Tom (3/24/24), Jerry M. (2/25/24), Jacque (1/28/24), Ann P. (1/21/24), Rich G. (1/7/24), Jack (12/10/23), Karl B (7/30/23), Kate S. (7/30/23), Pamela (5/28/23), Cindy (5/28/23), Jay (5/28/23), Lauren (5/28/23), Frieda L. (5/17/23), Paul S. (4/16/23), Gary M. (11/14/21), Tim R. (12/18/18), and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 152)

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

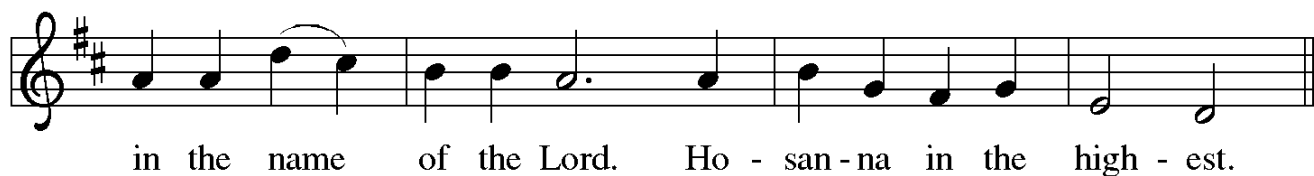
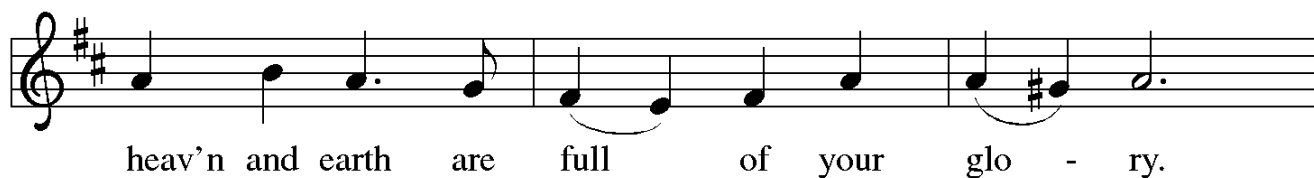
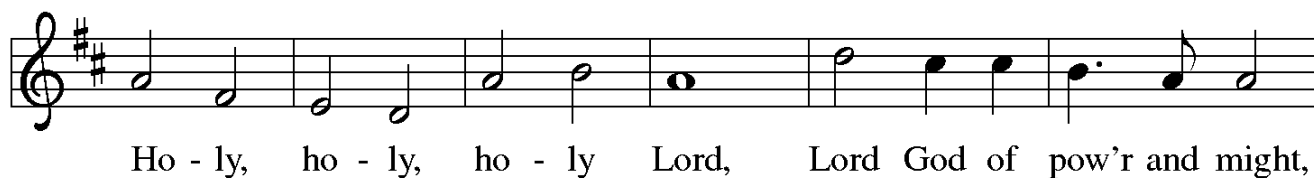
The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (ELW p. 153)

"Holy, Holy, Holy" maybe sung.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

The presiding minister may introduce the 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

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the bread.

AGNUS DEI (ELW p. 154)

"Lamb of God" may be sung.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING

The assembly stands as they are able. The presiding minister offers a blessing.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the following 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Thine Is the Glory* (ELW 376)



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
 where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!

May 12th - Next Second Sunday Speaker Series

Our next Second Sunday Event, “Reclaiming Christianity,” will take place at Redeemer on May 12th from 11am-12 noon and feature Pastors Limina Grace, Allison Moore, Tobias Anderson as well as SCC Chaplain Michelle Ledesma-Baer in conversation about how we as progressive Christians have an important role in society and the world in cultivating public discussion around current events utilizing the moral compass of our faith.

Meanwhile, check out these photos from our April Second Sunday Speaker Event, “Black Christians in New Platz,” hosted at the Methodist Church.



Ambassador Opportunity: CommUNITY Spaces

You, too, can help us build our CommUNITY Spaces hosted by Redeemer ministry! By remembering this ministry when you are with friends and family, at work or involved with other local organizations as a volunteer - and then telling people about not only the spaces Redeemer has to offer, but the kind of welcoming, supportive community that desires to support other people doing good things in the world - you will join the growing number of “ambassadors” helping us spread the word about this opportunity.



Recent CommUNITY Spaces hosted by Redeemer events included the African Students Union pageant and a family party celebrating a first birthday!

To reserve spaces, have people email space@redeemernewpaltz.org.

Do you have questions, ideas, or just want to talk about the CommUNITY Spaces ministry a bit more? Please reach out to pastor Tobias at tobias.song@gmail.com or deacon.bill@redeemernewpaltz.org.

Thanks in advance for your efforts!

Combating Hatred / Fostering Change

On May 1st at 5pm, the Elting Library in New Paltz will be hosting the event, *Telling the Stories that Keeps the Ancestors Alive*, which includes poetry readings by Ulster County Poet Laureate, Kate Hymes, and in conversation with Esi Lewi, Chief Diversity Officer of Ulster County.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/43PDIGV>.

Trauma-Responsive & Resilience Informed Care Training **Tuesday, May 21st & Thursday, May 23rd, 9am - 1pm** **Redeemer Church, 90 Rt 32 In New Paltz**

This training provides foundational knowledge on the effects of toxix stress, trauma, and adversity on health and well-being. Additionally, this training explores the interconnectedness of racism and trauma. Understanding that racism is trauma and should be treated as such in any trauma-responsive care framework is a key component.

Registration required by 5/15/24. Take advantage of this free training. Email Phoenix at: pkawamoto@townofnewpaltz.org

Koinonia Summer Programming

Can't wait for summer? Neither can the folks at Koinonia. They have plenty of wonderful events and programs happening.

Starting with a community wide 5K on May 25th, their first annual alumni reunion weekend, the Women's retreat is back due to popular demand, and then nine wonderful weeks of Nature Camp!

Summer is such a great time to enjoy our lake, trails, and all the exciting activities happening in the area. You can rent one of our cabins, book a comfortable room in the conference center, or bring a tent and put it up in our campground.

Visit <https://www.koinoniany.org/> for more information.

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