

Prelude

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Hymn No. 383

Tune: Austria

Greeting

(Pastor) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(People) R/ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

R/ And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

Hymn No. 167

Prayer of the Day

(Together) 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.

Order for Holy Baptism

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father ... As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

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

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil and all of its deceptions?

(Baptismal Party) I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(People) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

(Sit) (Baptism, blessing and prayer.)

...Through Baptism God has made this brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the LORD's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Teaching Moment

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For '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.' ²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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."

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson**1 Peter 3:13-22**

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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

Holy Gospel**John 14:15-21**

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.”

(Spoken after the reading) **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Christine Thomas-Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“Loving Spirit”

Hymn No 397

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Response to prayers: (Sung)

Hymn No 752

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

MEAL

Choir Anthem

“Beautiful in His Time”

Dan Forrest

Offering

Great Thanksgiving

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Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, living, and loving God...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes...

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again ...

Through him all glory is yours Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

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Traditional right hand column

Invitation

Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah! All are welcome.

Lamb of God

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Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

Distribution Hymns

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Hymn No. 781
“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” Hymn No. 403

Blessing

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

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

R/ Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” Hymn No. 543

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

R/ Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude



Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. 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.



Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.