



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING | Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

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

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

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

4**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

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

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

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

8**Let the rivers clap their hands,**

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.
9The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

THE GOSPEL | John 15:9-17

God is with you! **And also with you!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- How do you maintain an individual relationship with God and Christ?
- When have you experienced “complete joy?”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

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

It is right and good that we should always and everywhere give thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, the true vine who binds us together and nourishes us with himself. For on the night he was handed over, he took the 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.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be served in bread only. Extend your hands and the minister will drop a wafer in your hand using tongues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church on the Avenue Book Club. Next Thursday will be the next and third meeting of St. Luke's book club. Whether you've been to every session so far or none, grab a copy and jump in!

The book is *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins*. (link to buy the book: <http://emmykegler.com/one-coin-found/>)

- 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 7pm (on Zoom of course)
- Next Meeting: May 13
- **Chapters 5 & 6**

If you have questions you can email Scott Davis at scdavis553@gmail.com

If you have prayers of concern or thanksgiving to share, please offer them up through the weekly newsletter so that we join you in care and in gratitude.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace,
in the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the Good News. **Thanks be to God!**