

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## FutureChurch Online Liturgy of the Word

### Introductory Rites

#### Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of God, who loves us into being,  
Of Christ Jesus, who speaks us into freedom,  
and the Spirit, who moves us into holiness,  
*(making the sign of the cross)*

**ALL: AMEN**

#### Greeting

Leader:

The healing peace of Jesus,  
the abundant Love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit  
IS with you,

**ALL: And also with you.**

#### Introductory Remarks

*Prepared by the Leader.*

#### Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

God of Love,  
With wonder and joy, we remember  
That your spirit reaches everywhere  
rejoicing in the liveliness of all creation;  
soothing what is wounded or broken with healing power;  
gathering in the lonely, the lost, the least;  
creating and recreating a vision of hope.

Calm all troubled hearts, we pray,  
And dispel every fear.  
Keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word,  
That we might always be your dwelling place.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
Who lives and thrives with you, with us all,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**ALL: AMEN**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*\*\*\*Texts have been adapted for inclusive/expansive language\*\*\**

### **First Reading**

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,  
  
Philip went down to the city of Samaria  
and proclaimed the Christ to them.  
With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip  
when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.  
  
For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice,  
came out of many possessed people,  
and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured.  
There was great joy in that city.  
  
Now when the apostles in Jerusalem  
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,  
they sent them Peter and John,  
who went down and prayed for them,  
that they might receive the Holy Spirit,  
for it had not yet fallen upon any of them;  
they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Then they laid hands on them  
and they received the Holy Spirit.

All: The Word of God  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm**

Psalmist: The response is:  
"Let all the earth cry out to God with joy."  
**R "Let all the earth cry out to God with joy."**

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,  
Sing praise to the glory of God's name  
Proclaim God's glorious praise  
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!" **R**

Let all the earth worship and sing praise to you,  
Sing praise to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
The tremendous deeds on our behalf. **R**

Hear now, all you who revere God,  
While I declare what God has done for me.  
Blessed be God who has not rejected my prayer  
Or stopped loving me! **R**

### **Second Reading**

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Peter,

Beloved:  
Sanctify Christ as sovereign in your hearts.  
Always be ready to give an explanation  
to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,  
but do it with gentleness and reverence,  
keeping your conscience clear,  
so that, when you are maligned,  
those who defame your good conduct in Christ  
may themselves be put to shame.  
For it is better to suffer for doing good,  
if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.  
For Christ also suffered for sins once,  
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
that Christ might lead you to God.  
Put to death in the flesh,  
Christ was brought to life in the Spirit.

**ALL:** The word of God  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Leader/Russ: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Leader/Russ: "Whoever loves me will keep my word," says Christ,  
"and God will love them and will come to them"

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Gospel**

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask God, who will give you another Advocate to be with you always,  
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept,  
because it neither sees nor knows this Spirit.

But you know the Spirit, who remains with you,  
and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.  
In a little while the world will no longer see me,  
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in God  
and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them  
is the one who loves me.

And whoever loves me will be loved by God,  
and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Good News of Our Salvation

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## FAITH SHARING

### **Reflection**

– CWP Video: [www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05172020](http://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05172020)

### **Questions for Shared Reflection:**

*The Second Reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter invites us to “always be ready to give an explanation ...for a reason for your hope.” **With everything going on around you – pandemic related or otherwise – do you find yourself having hope? What gives you reason for hope?***

*Concluding her preaching, Mary Ann Hinsdale reminds us that we have already been given the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised in the Gospel. **Have you been able to recognize the presence of the Spirit? How so? How might you affirm, recognize, or ritualize the presence of the Spirit in your daily routine, home, family?***

## CONCLUDING RITES

### **Closing Prayer**

Leader: Nourished by God’s word and strengthened by this community,  
Let us pray together,

**ALL: Loving God, Holy One,  
Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.  
We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.  
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.  
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.  
We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.  
Help us to practice physical distancing, revealing to us new and creative ways to hold each other fast, so we may care for each other in tender solidarity.  
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,  
You, the God who does not abandon,  
You, the Holy One, breathing within us, breathing among us,  
breathing around us, in our beautiful yet wounded world. AMEN**

Adapted from “Prayer during a Pandemic” by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

## **Blessing**

Leader: And may the God of hope fill us with every comfort and joy in believing.  
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts and minds.  
and may the Holy Spirit gift and guide us  
*(making Sign of the Cross)* now and forever,

**ALL: AMEN**

## **Dismissal**

Leader: Our time of prayer and reflection and we go forth in the Spirit of life and hope! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**