



Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

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 Song....."We Praise You"

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy
Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety
Let it rise let praise arise

We sing Your name in the dark
And it changes ev'rything
We sing with all we are and we claim Your victory
Let it rise let praise arise

Chorus

**We'll see you break down ev'ry wall
We'll watch the giants fall
For fear cannot survive when we praise You
The God of breakthrough's on our side
Forever lift Him high
With all creation cry God we praise You**

Oh we praise You oh

Let faith be the song
That overcomes the raging sea
Let faith be the song
That calms the storm inside of me
Let it rise let faith arise

Chorus

Oh we praise You oh we praise You
Oh we praise You oh we praise You

This is what living looks like
This is what freedom feels like
This is what Heaven sounds like
We praise You

We praise You
(REPEAT)

Chorus

Oh we praise You oh we praise You
Oh we praise You oh
Give Him all your praise.

We Praise You

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Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing (Nettleton)

Gathering Song....."Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing
John Wyeth | Robert Robinson
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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return
to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

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.

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

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Hymn....."You Say"

I keep fighting voices in my mind
That say I'm not enough
Ev'ry single lie that tells me
I will never measure up

Am I more than just the sum of
Ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Remind me once again just who I am
Because I need to know oo oh

Chorus

YOU say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
YOU say I am strong when I think I am weak
YOU say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong oh YOU say I am YOURS
And I believe oh I believe
What YOU say of me I believe

The only thing that matters now
Is ev'rything YOU think of me
In YOU I find my worth
In YOU I find my identity

Chorus

Taking all I have and now I'm laying it at YOUR feet
YOU'LL have ev'ry failure God
YOU'LL have ev'ry victory

Chorus

Oh I believe yes I believe
What YOU say of me I believe

You Say

Jason Ingram | Lauren Daigle | Paul Mabury

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The Apostles' 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 power of 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

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (*especially Lisle, Judi, Don, Vincent, Barbara, Victoria, Duke, Christi, Daniel, David, Kristina, Wally, Vicki, Margo, Joy, Lourdes, Michelle, LauraLee, Gloria, Sharon, Janis, Michael, JJ, Ellen, Iura, Cheryl, Ron, John & Christine, Darell, Richard, Ruth, James, Nancy, David and Lew*). 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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially Mike*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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 the Table

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

Distribution

At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post Communion Prayer

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song.....“Make Us One”

Make us one Lord
Make us one
Holy Spirit make us one
Let Your love flow
So the world will know
We are one in You

Make Us One

Carol Cymbala

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Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.