

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS – Jun 5-9 is coming soon! A sign-up sheet is in the foyer for donating items needed. Thank you for participating!

We are saddened to announce the passing of two great men of God. **Glen Aubrey, Pastor Vern's life-long friend, and our brother-in-Christ, **David Bowen**, went to their eternal rest unexpectedly. We will pray that our Lord would comfort and strengthen the Aubrey and Bowen families during their time of bereavement while we cling to our hope in Christ, who has promised to bring us to Himself to live in everlasting mansions of glory.**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 14:19b; Acts 17:28; Romans 6:3–4*

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."

C: In Him we live and move and have our being.

L: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

C: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- L: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- C: Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.**
- L: The Apostle Paul writes: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit." Our God has heard our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. Through Christ and through the power of His cross and empty tomb, receive God's forgiveness; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!**
- C: Alleluia! Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "The Goodness of Jesus" CityAlight

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L: Let us pray.**
Ever-living God, in You we live and move and have our being. We praise and thank You for creating us in Your image and for restoring our sin-stained selves to that image through the waters of Baptism. Lead and guide us by Your Spirit, as we live out our days so that others may come to know who You are; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

THE FIRST READING for the 6th Sunday of Easter is from the Book of Acts, chapter 17.

Acts 17:16–31

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

**“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”**

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 16:33b*

L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

C: In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *John 14:15–21* (Jesus is with us, now and forever.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 606 “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

**I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**

**I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.**

**I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine,
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

SERMON

“Painting Over the Rust”

Seminarian Matt Martin

CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for sending Your Son to die and rise again for the sins of the world. We praise and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who shows us our sin, who calls us by the Gospel, gathers us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlightens us with Your truth, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Creator God, You have created this world and everything in it, as well as each person who lives in it. In You we live and move and have our being, and You continue to provide for our daily needs of body and life.

Lead us as we oversee the resources and relationships You generously give us. Guide us to see all people as Your masterpieces. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: O Jesus, You know intimately the challenges we face and the griefs we bear in this life. Hear us as we pray for those who are hurting and grieving,

[especially the Families of Glen Aubrey and David Bowen who recently entered their eternal rest a week ago, and our prayers also ascend to Your throne of grace for Andy and Bethany Herran as Andy's sister Wyrlla lost her battle to stage 4 liver cancer this past Thursday. Strengthen our hope in the resurrection as we grieve for these loved ones.

We pray also for Cornelia Paulsen, Ginger Kieffer, Georgia Trefftz and her son Jeff, and others who are struggling with health issues. Give them strength and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Lord God, You have placed us in a community where there are people who have never known You or who no longer are connected to Your Church. Guide us, as You guided Paul and others, to seize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope we have, doing this with gentleness and respect. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Almighty God, You are the King of all creation and the fount of all wisdom. We pray for all the world's leaders and ask that You guide them according to Your will and Your ways as they make decisions for the good of all. We especially pray for our president, vice president, governor, mayor, and all those who work in government. Watch over their lives, and guide them in the decisions they are called to make on our behalf. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Gracious God, we thank You for making us male and female and for creating families with a loving father and a mother. We grieve for those who do not experience life according to Your design and for those who experience abandonment, abuse, and neglect. We celebrate with those who experience Your love in their families.

Today, we especially remember our mothers and those who want to be mothers but are unable. We remember those in whose wombs you knit us together. We remember those You have worked through to provide us comfort, wise counsel, care, and discipline throughout the different stages of our lives. We ask Your blessing on all mothers, that they experience Your love and are shaped by it in their parenting. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Lord of Life, thank You for those in our church family who are celebrating their Birthdays this week: Kim Williams, Steve Foster, Bob Strohm, Donna Jackson, Tate Husemann, Ava & Cohen Morton. We ask for Your blessing upon their lives and for the fullness of Joy You bring! Protect them and give them peace. Complete what You have started in them. Draw them closer to You this coming year and help them to know You better that they may see Your daily mercies flowing from above.

We praise You O God, for blessing the marriage of **Roger and Phyllis Miesner** this past year. You have remained the center of their union and enriched them in the spiritual realm with grace upon grace. We bless You, O God, with high praise as You have delivered them during the Covid years so that they were able to help care for their precious but immune-deficient granddaughter **Reeva**, who is now living the good life for which we have prayed so earnestly. We thank You for Your healing mercies which have taken this tenuous and fragile life and made her whole! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at Your right hand, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him. Our collective prayers we bind together in the words of Jesus who taught us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**All: 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**L: The almighty God—Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you,
now and forever.**

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 855 “For All the Faithful Women” (vss. 1 & 4 - TUNE: 672)

For all the faithful women
Who served in days of old,
To You shall thanks be given;
To all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
In tasks Your wisdom gave.
To You their lives bore witness,
Proclaimed Your pow’r to save.

All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit,
Who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us,
With saints who witness still,
We sing glad Alleluias
And strive to do Your will.

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!