

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Color: White

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[Acts 16:9-15](#) (*Hearing Paul in Macedonia, Lydia and her household are baptized*)

[Psalm 67](#) (*May God be gracious and bless us; let the whole earth praise God*)

[Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5](#) (*A vision of the holy city; the river of life flows from God's throne*)

[John 14:23-29](#) (*Jesus says: Keep my word; the Spirit will teach you; I give you peace*)

or [John 5:1-9](#) (*At the pool of Beth-zatha in Jerusalem, Jesus heals a paralyzed man*)

Themes: Baptism, Blessing, New Creation, Holy Spirit, Healing

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](#), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

All Are Welcome (<i>TWO OAKS</i>).....	Acts
Come Down, O Love Divine (<i>DOWN AMPNEY</i>).....	John 14
From All That Dwell Below the Skies (<i>DUKE STREET; LASST UNS ERFREUEN; YOUNG</i>).....	Psalms
Help Us Accept Each Other (<i>ACCEPTANCE; AURELIA</i>).....	Acts, John 5
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (<i>HOUSTON</i>)	Revelation, John 14
Is Well With My Soul (<i>VILLE DU HAVRE</i>).....	John 5, John 14
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (<i>BRIDEGROOM</i>).....	John 14
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (<i>BEECHER; HYFRYDOL</i>).....	John 14
On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand (<i>PROMISED LAND</i>)	Revelation
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (<i>NETTLETON</i>).....	John 5
Shall We Gather at the River (<i>HANSON PLACE</i>).....	Acts, Revelation, John 5
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (<i>MORECAMBE</i>).....	Acts, John 14
Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters (<i>BEACH SPRING</i>)	Acts, John 14

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Called as Partners – E Acts

Alfred V. Fedak
© 2017, Selah Publishing, 415-240
SATB, Organ, opt. Congregation

Give Me Your Hand – M Acts, John 5

African-American Spiritual/Joseph Joubert, arr.
© 2002, GIA Publications, G-5925
SATB, a cappella (from *Three Spirituals*)

God Be Merciful Unto Us (Psalm 67) – M Psalms

Paul Halley
© 1998, Pelagos Inc., PEL2021
SSA, Organ, Trumpet

How Can I Keep from Singing? – E John 14

ENDLESS SONG/Timothy Shaw, arr.
© 2013, Hope Publishing, C 5799
2-Part Mixed, Piano

I Am Bound For the Promised Land – M Revelation

PROMISED LAND/Craig Courtney, arr.
© 2016, Beckenhorst Press, BP2105
SATB, Piano (4-hands), Percussion

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – M
..... Revelation

HOUSTON/Tom Trenney, arr.
© 2018, Pavanne Publishing, P1597
SATB, Piano

If Ye Love Me – M John 14

Philip Wilby
© 1992, Banks Music, ECS191
SSATB, Organ

Keep God's Light – M John 14

Mark Patterson
© 2015, MorningStar Music, 50-1980
SATB, a cappella, Percussion

Praise the Lord, Every Land and Nation – E
..... Psalms

G.F. Handel/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 2012, MorningStar Music, 50-5812
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

Shall We Gather at the River? – E
..... Acts, Revelation, John 5

HANSON PLACE/David van Kampen, arr.
© 2014, Concordia Publishing, 98-1174
SATB, Piano

Wayfarin' Stranger – E Revelation

Traditional American Spiritual/Donald Moore, arr.
© 1989, Fostco Music, MF 2033
2-Part Mixed, Piano

-- Youth and Children --

Let All the Peoples Praise You, O God – M Psalms

Michael Bedford
© 2002, Choristers Guild, CGA 933
2-Part, Piano, opt. Flute

Wade in the Water – M Acts, John 5

African-American Spiritual/Moses Hogan, arr.
© 1997, Hal Leonard, HL08749732
SAB, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

O Heavenly Comforter, Spirit of truth,
present in all places and filling all things;
Treasury of blessings and Giver of life:
come and dwell in us, cleanse us from every impurity,
and of Your goodness, save our souls. Amen.

—ROMANIAN ORTHODOX PRAYER

MEDITATION STATEMENT

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.*

— John 14:27

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CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 67 and Revelation 21)

Leader: May God be gracious to us, sisters and brothers.

**People: As we continually praise our Lord, may God's blessing be upon us;
may God's face shine upon us.**

Leader: We have come together for worship, with music and voice, gathered
in by God's hope and grace.

**People: In the light of God's love, darkness and death are defeated. Praise
God's holy name!**

— Daniel Glaze*

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GATHERING PRAYER

(based on John 14)

Holy and everlasting God, it is far too tempting to feel as if we are all alone in
this world. In those moments, and in this moment of worship, remind us that
by the gift of your church—this family—we never walk alone. Remind us that
by the great gift of Immanuel, nothing can separate us from the light of your
love. Be present with us, we pray, as we worship you in spirit and in truth.
Amen.

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and loving God, we confess that our hearts and our actions reflect that we are
not always noble and just. Sometimes we act out of selfishness, greed, and mistrust.
In the next moments of silence, we confess our sins before you.**

[Silence]

**Forgive our stubbornness and resistance to live into the beauty and good news of your
love. Set us right again, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We have confessed our sins before God and one another. Divine mercy and forgiveness are abundant and generously given. Therefore, in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we are forgiven, we are healed, we are restored. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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OFFERTORY SENTENCES

(from Acts 16)

Like Lydia, we open our heart to the Lord, and we listen eagerly to the good news of Jesus Christ. Like Lydia, when we are open to God's prompting and leading in our lives, our hearts burst forth in bold faithfulness and generosity. May God take our gifts, given in humility and trust, and bless and multiply them for the sake of God's work in this world. Amen.

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(from John 14)

So when we seek direction, remind us what is true:
the Advocate is with us to help us follow you.
Christ, guided by the Spirit, may we your people be
A loving, faithful witness in this community.

— CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE, 2019
from *"O Christ, We Trust Your Promise"*

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BENEDICTION

(loosely based on John 14)

Children of God, as we depart from this place, whenever we are tempted to believe that we are forsaken and forgotten, may we be given the sure and certain hope that the One who has created us and redeemed is always with us, even to the end of the age. Therefore, let us go forth to serve this world together. Amen.

* Thanks to Daniel Glaze for contributing today's liturgies and prayers.

Warren Howell, editor