

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Color: White

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

[Acts 17:22–31](#) (*Paul to the Athenians: the Lord is God*)

[Psalm 66:8–20](#) (*Be joyful, and bless God, all you lands*)

[1 Peter 3:13–22](#) (*Do not fear; testify to the hope that is in you through Christ*)

[John 14:15–21](#) (*Keep my commandments; the Father will send the Spirit, who will abide in you*)

Themes: Faithfulness, One God, Baptism, Holy Spirit, Discipleship

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 morning's scriptures or themes.

All Creatures of Our God and King (<i>LASST UNS ERFREUEN</i>)	Acts
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (<i>HYFRYDOL</i>)	John
Baptized in Water (<i>BUNESSAN</i>)	1 Peter, Baptism
Blessed Assurance (<i>ASSURANCE</i>)	Acts
Breathe On Me, Breath of God (<i>TRENTHAM</i>)	1 Peter, John
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound (<i>MCKEE; AZMON; ST. PETER</i>)	Acts, 1 Peter
For the Beauty of the Earth (<i>DIX</i>)	Acts, Communion
God Is Here (<i>ABBOT'S LEIGH</i>)	Acts
I Sing the Almighty Power of God (<i>ELLACOMBE; FOREST GREEN</i>)	Psalms, Acts
In Christ There Is No East or West (<i>ST. PETER; MCKEE</i>)	Acts
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (<i>HYMN TO JOY</i>)	John
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (<i>I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN</i>)	John
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (<i>BEECHER; HYFRYDOL</i>)	John
Sweet, Sweet Spirit (<i>MANNA</i>)	1 Peter, John
Where Charity and Love Prevail (<i>RESIGNATION</i>)	1 Peter
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters (<i>BEACH SPRING</i>)	1 Peter, Baptism
We Know That Christ Is Raised (<i>ENGELBERG</i>)	1 Peter, Baptism

ANTHEMS

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

Children of the Heavenly Father - M 1 Peter
TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA/Eric Nelson, arr.
© 2016, MorningStar Music, 50-6085
SATB, Piano

Come, Gracious Spirit - E..... John
Alfred Fedak
© 2004, Selah Publishing, 405-627
2-Part Mixed, Organ

Concertato on “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” - E..... John
HYFRYDOL/Hal Hopson, arr.
© 1995, H.W. Gray, GCMR 9602
SATB, Organ, opt. Handbells

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless - M..... John
Everett Titcomb
© 1984, Carl Fischer Inc., MC441
SATB, a cappella

If Ye Love Me - M John
David Ashley White
© 2011, E.C. Schirmer, 7632
SAB, a cappella

If Ye Love Me - M John
Philip Wilby
© 1992, Banks Music Publications, ECS 191
SSATB, Organ

I'll Praise My Maker - MDPsalms
OLD 113TH/Lloyd Pfautsch, arr.
© 1960, 1982, Hope Publishing, APM127
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass Choir

Love Divine - M..... John
Howard Goodall
© 2000, Faber Music, MorningStar Music, 56-0010
SATB divisi, Keyboard, opt. Strings

Peace I Leave With You - M John
Walter Pelz
© 1963, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-4565-6
SATB, a cappella

-- youth and children --

If Ye Love Me - E..... John
Mark Patterson
© 2002, Choristers Guild, CGA 952
SAB, Piano

Great Day! - M.....Psalms
African-American Spiritual/Rollo Dilworth, arr.
© 2000, Hal Leonard, 08703264
2-Part, Piano

Everywhere I Go - E..... Acts
Natalie Sleeth
© 1975, Choristers Guild, CGA 171
Unison/2-Part, Piano, opt. C Instrument

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Blessed Father God, may we show ourselves to be faithful.
Our effort here is brief, the reward is eternal. May the
excitements of the world vanish like a shadow, and not
disturb us. Amen.*

—CLARE OF ASSISI (1194–1253)

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, in whom we live,
We come before you seeking life that only you can provide.
O God, in whom we live and move,
We come before you seeking the opening of our constricted hearts.
O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
We praise you as the source of all things good.
Let us worship God.

-- ANNE HUNTER EIDSON*

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving Lord, you invite us to abide in you by keeping your commandments. Give us eyes to see you and hearts open to your Spirit of truth. And as we worship you this day, may we be faithful witnesses to your transforming love. Amen.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, our world and lives have changed
in ways we could not have imagined.
We assume you are with us,
yet uncertainty sometimes smothers our hope.
We are aware of your message proclaimed
throughout scripture to "fear not,"
but *how* can we not be afraid?
We believe in the Holy Spirit of truth,
which knows no bounds or distance,
yet we often feel isolated, stagnant and lonely.
Remind us over and over, O God,
of your love for us and our love for you.
Remind us that the natural expression of this love
is to trust you and share that love as we follow in your way.
Remind us of the space that is opened in our souls
to receive your vibrant Spirit when we put our faith in you.
And stand by us, we pray,
as we dare to take steps to love, to have courage,
and to open ourselves to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, the Psalmist reminds us that God has given heed to the words of our prayer and God's steadfast love is sure. In the name of Christ, hear this: we are forgiven! Do you believe it? For only in believing and accepting this grace can we truly experience the peace of Christ and offer it to one another. Let us believe! May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: We believe! May the peace of Christ be also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share the peace with one another.)

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God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful.

-- MOTHER THERESA (1919-1997)

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BENEDICTION

Deep peace of the Running Wave to you.

Deep peace of the Flowing Air to you.

Deep peace of the Quiet Earth to you.

Deep peace of the Shining Stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

--Traditional Celtic Benediction

*Thanks to Anne Hunter Eidson for contributing to this week's prayers and liturgy.

Warren Howell, editor