

Holy Eucharist

May 14, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zzo>

9

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Easter 6A: Rogation Sunday

Prelude

Andante un poco from Sonata, BWV 1015 J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 470

Alleluia, sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Song of Praise
Our God reigns

Chorus Book 99

1 How love-ly on the moun - tains are the feet of him
4 Out of the tomb he came with grace and maj - es - ty;

who brings good news,
he is a - live,
he good news;
he is a - live.

an - nounc - ing peace, pro - claim - ing news of hap - pi - ness:
God loves us so; see Je - sus' hands, his feet, his side.

our God reigns, our God reigns.
Yes, we know, he is a - live.

Refrain
Our God reigns, our God reigns,

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it,

he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:7-18

to be prayed responsively

⁷Bless our God, you peoples; *

make the voice of his praise to be heard,

⁸**Who holds our souls in life, ***

and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹For you, O God, have proved us; *

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us into the snare; ***

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; *

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings**

and will pay you my vows, *

which I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams; *

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴**Come and listen, all you who fear God, ***

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁵I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶**If I had found evil in my heart, ***

the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁷But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

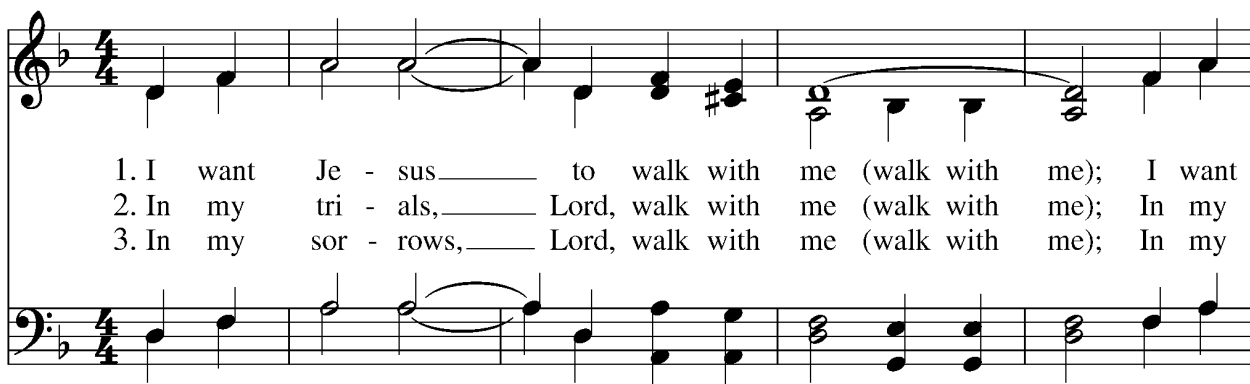
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

LEVAS 70

I want Jesus to walk with me



1. I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me); I want
2. In my tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); In my
3. In my sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); In my

1. Je - sus _____ to walk _____ with me (walk with me); All a -
 2. tri - als, _____ Lord, walk _____ with me (walk with me); When the
 3. sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk _____ with me (walk with me); When my

1. long my _____ pil - grim jour - ney, _____ Lord, I want
 2. shades of _____ life _____ are fall - ing, _____ Lord, I want
 3. heart with - in _____ is ach - ing, _____ Lord, I want

1. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 2. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 3. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).

All remain standing as they are able.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

All stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**
**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All remain standing as they are able.

A Litany of Praise for Rogation Sunday

The Presider then says

Today is Rogation Sunday, when the church has traditionally offered prayer for God's blessing on the preparation of the earth for a bountiful harvest, and for the labors of humankind. Christian honoring of Rogation Days has varied over the centuries: from observance on a fixed date of April 25, to great outdoor processions on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. Elizabeth I of England ordered the "perambulation around the boundaries of the parish" at Rogationtide, a custom still observed in many places.

Let God's people in this place join in happily, joyfully, praising the Creator of such abundance and blessing:

Presider: Let the whole creation bless the Lord!

People: **Praise and exalt our God for ever!**

Bless the Lord, you heavens,

Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, you waters of the earth and sky,

Bless the Lord, storm, wind, snow, and rain,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, sun, moon, and planets,

Bless the Lord, comets, stars, and billowing clouds,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, atoms, quarks, and particles,

Bless the Lord, you mountains and valleys, hollows and hills,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, whales and plankton, and all creatures of the seas,

Bless the Lord, hawk and robin, and all creatures of the air,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, elephant and salamander, and all beasts of the earth,

Bless the Lord, mole and earthworm, and all burrowers underground,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord all you plants, mighty trees and tiny lichen,

Bless the Lord, all you peoples of the earth,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the earth, infants and children, the frail and the strong,

Bless the Lord, both the ill and the well, the joyous and the mourners,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, gardeners, farmers and fishers, and all who feed humankind,

Bless the Lord, business folk, and all whose commerce sustains us,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, healers and protectors, teachers and learners,

Bless the Lord, scientists and artists, engineers and musicians,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, governors and builders-of-justice of every kind,
Bless the Lord, Chelsea and Dexter, Manchester and Jackson, Grass Lake and Ann Arbor, and all
you people of Michigan,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

Bless the Lord, all you saints, you living among us and you who have gone before,

Praise and exalt our God for ever!

All Creation resounds with praise; O bless the Lord, praise God for ever!

Praise and exalt our God for ever and ever!

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, bless the Holy One; make the voice of God's
praise to be heard, saying, "We call out to you with our mouths; your praise is on our tongues."

Intercessor Lord Christ, you have not left us orphaned, but have given your Church an
Advocate. May that same Holy Spirit teach us to keep your commandments and comfort us with
divine love. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is on our tongues.**

Silence is kept

Loving God, bless the suffering. May those who suffer for doing good find a friend in Christ
Jesus. May those who suffer from disasters beyond their control find you attentive to the voice of
their prayers. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is on our tongues.**

Silence is kept

Lord of heaven and earth, you made the world and everything in it. You give to all mortals life
and breath and all things. May we be faithful stewards of all you have created. We call out to you
with our mouths; **Your praise is on our tongues.**

Silence is kept

Merciful Lord, bless the people of this city with a spirit of gentleness and reverence. May we be
set free from fear to live, instead, in hope. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is
on our tongues.**

Silence is kept

O God from whom all good proceeds: you bless the earth to bring forth her increase. Guide all
your people to honor you by caring for your creation. We thank you for [_____ and]
all the blessings of this life. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is on our
tongues.**

God, you are not far from each one of us. You love us as your children. Reveal your love, especially this day, to the sick and sorrowful [especially_____]. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is on our tongues.**

Heavenly Father, you hold our souls in life. You have saved us in baptism. Because your Son Jesus lives so do we rejoice in the hope of unending life in you. We pray for those who have died [especially_____]. We call out to you with our mouths; **Your praise is on our tongues.**

Silence is kept

Presider For what other people and situations shall we pray today?

We thank you, holy God, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Let us confess our sins to God.

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

All stand as they are able

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Presider O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

Unknown yet revealing God, it is our duty and joy to thank and praise you, because from one ancestor you made all nations to inhabit the earth, and you allotted their times and boundaries, so they would search for you, in whom they live and move and have their being.

While our lives are circumscribed by the limitations of our minds and bodies, your life is beyond our reach and outside our imagining.

Yet in your mercy you embodied all your promises to your people in the sending of your Son, and through his dying and rising you have brought us to your throne of grace. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all who with your ascended Son sit at your right hand on high, proclaiming the hymn of your unending praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Sending and accompanying God, you do not leave us orphaned, but in Christ you make us your adopted children, and in your Spirit you send an Advocate to be with us forever.

By the power of that same Spirit, take the fragile flesh of your people and transform it into the resurrected glory of your church; and come down upon these gifts of bread and wine and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Sanctifying God, from the abundance of your limitless glory, bless your children who suffer for doing right.

Give to those who stand trial the gentleness and reverence of your Son. As in Christ you proclaimed your word to the spirits in prison, make yourself known to all who find themselves incarcerated in body, mind, or spirit.

Be close to any who live with public shame, and all who carry the humiliation of others in their hearts.

Breathe your power upon your people where they face persecution, oppression, or false charge, that in truth you shall lead us to all truth, until that day when the whole earth is judged in righteousness by the one you have appointed and raised from the dead, and we stand before you, forgiven, loved, and free, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

You call us, Lord Jesus, to share the feast
which you first shared with the disciples
on the night before your death upon the cross.
The same life you shared with them is shared with us.

The same love you poured forth on the cross is poured forth in this feast;
this is the feast which your saints share for ever.
**We also are called to this feast of our forgiveness, redemption,
health, and joy; let us come then to this table
and share this feast; and as we come to you, Lord Jesus,
come now and always to us. Amen.**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Music

Adagio from Sonata, BWV 1018

J.S. Bach

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

May God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

May God the Son who, in bursting the grave, has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel-come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Dismissal

Minister Go forth into this world. Don't be afraid. Don't be ashamed to be people of love. Go forth into this world in joy, and help us to change it from the nightmare it often is, into the dream that God intends.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Presto from Sonata, BWV 1015 J.S. Bach

+++++

We welcome violinist Liza Dale to St Barnabas today, and thank her for her music!

+++++

This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA) **and for** all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

May 14 The Church of the Province of West Africa

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

May 14 Church of the Resurrection, Ecorse; Church of the Reconciliation, Azusa, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Mary V, Michael, Kathy W

and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Carlos, Robert, Selenah

+++++

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive** is next Sunday, **MAY 21**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

+++++

Upcoming Commemorations

- May 15 Junia and Andronicus
- 16 Martyrs of Sudan and South Sudan, 1983; and, Rogation Day
- 17 Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993; and,
William Hobart Hare: Bishop of Niobrara, and of South Dakota, 1909; and,
Rogation Day
- 19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
- 20 Alcuin of York, Deacon and Abbot, 804

+++++



May 14, 2023 – Easter 6A

Acts 17:22-31

In our first lesson this week, we are placed in the midst of the story as Paul, traveling from northern Greece (Thessalonica and Beroea) south to Corinth, stops for a few days in Athens. The city is depicted as a hotbed of intellectual and

religious activity with Epicurean and Stoic philosophy thriving alongside the ancient deities of the Mediterranean. Notably, the local populace does not reject Paul out of hand but rather invites him to share this new teaching in a prominent location, the Areopagus.

And here we jump in, listening as Paul preaches the gospel to this group of skeptical, worldly Athenians. I find his approach to be fascinating—he begins with flattery, attesting to the city’s thoughtfulness and piety, before refuting the local gods/idols made of “gold or silver or stone.” It is only at the very end that Paul refers to Jesus and the urgency of the moment, calling for repentance because the Messiah will return again. With this image of Paul as a preacher in mind:

- Why might Paul emphasize God’s mystery—God “does not live in shrines made by human hands”—to such an extent while reaching out to the Athenians?
- Thinking about Paul’s description of Christ crucified as “foolishness to the gentiles,” what might this approach say about how Paul understood his audience?

Psalm 66:7-18

This section of the 66th psalm emphasizes God’s continuous presence in spite of the hardships that we might face. In fact, the psalmist seems to be confident that whatever has happened in his life, it has all, ultimately, led to God. The “snares” and “heavy burdens” and “fire and water” were all part of God’s plan to “[try] us just as silver is tried.” The psalm does not invalidate or ignore the hardships but reframes them as expressions of endurance, challenges that were ultimately overcome due to divine favor. However, I do find it notable that the psalm seems to be composed with the benefit of hindsight—the challenges have been borne and now we can enter the presence of God confident, ready to offer sacrifices in thanks.

- Does this understanding of constructive (even redemptive) suffering speak to you? Where might your life feel like it is following some sort of divine plan and where might that vision be harder to see?

1 Peter 3:13-22

There is a lot packed into this passage, but I find myself lingering on the first section and what it says about suffering. Peter does not seem to glorify suffering as an end unto itself—pain is not a reward. But Peter is also not naive about the reality of the world—good people with good intentions will still come to harm; suffering is not avoidable. Instead, his message is deeply practical, a tidbit of well-earned pastoral wisdom: “But even if you suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.” Peter recognizes that the world is vast and complex, and most things are outside of our control. Sometimes we can do everything right and things still blow up in our faces. This does not mean that doing right is foolish, that those who act with “gentleness and reverence” are suckers. Ultimately, doing right is its own reward, “For it is better to suffer for doing good... than to suffer for doing evil.” All we can do is follow Jesus’ example and hope for the best.

- How might we embrace our suffering without becoming dour masochists or mopey martyrs?

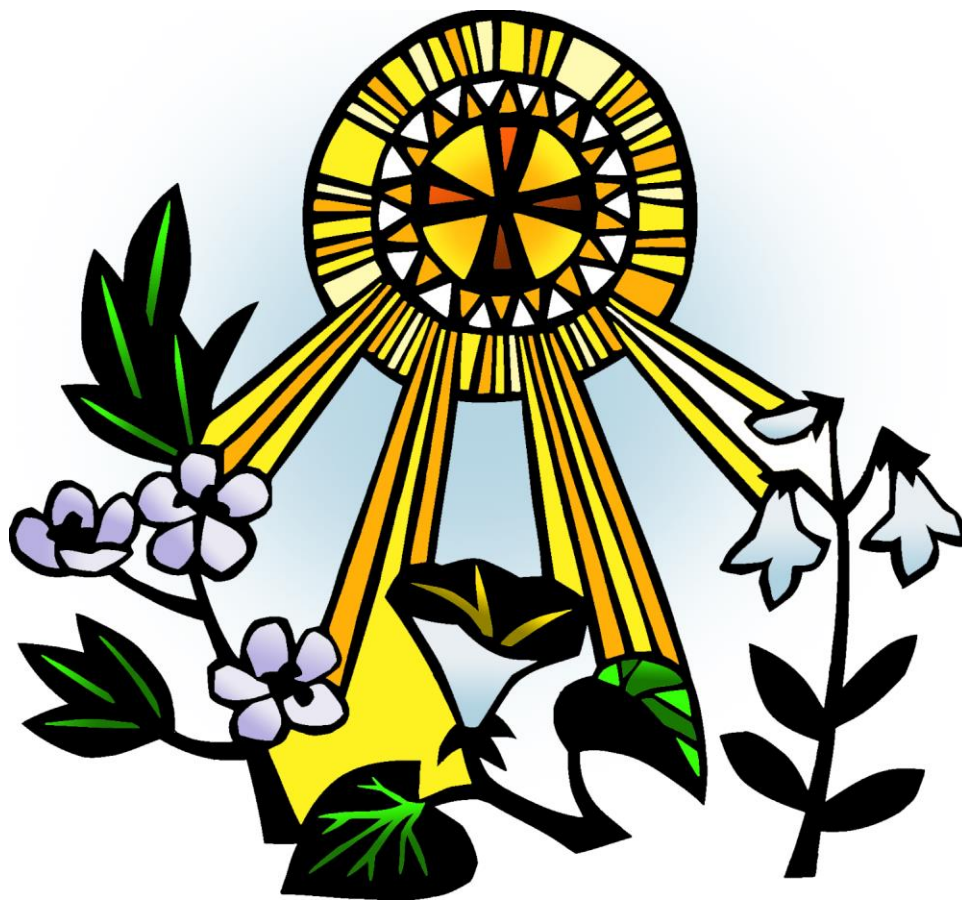
John 14:15-21

This passage from John is a part of the extended final bit of teaching that Jesus shares with his disciples during the Last Supper. The extended sermon covers three full chapters of the Gospel of John and is chock full of iconic passages and imagery, none more important than Jesus’ final admonition to *love*. It is in this passage that we first hear about the coming of the Holy Spirit and how it will support the disciples and their ministry, but we cannot ignore the way in which love undergirds all of this—Jesus’ love for us and our love for Jesus. Jesus is the way through which we have come to see and know God and it is through our relationship with Jesus that we have the

assurance of a relationship with God. It is by doing the work of Jesus that we show our love for Jesus and make ourselves fertile soil for the loving Spirit of God. It is a virtuous cycle, human love directed through word and action up to the divine, which in turn rebounds down as divine love, strengthening our commitments to the work of Christ. Love never diminishes or runs out but is an abundant, unlimited resource.

- How have you seen this cycle of love enacted in your life? How does love guide you to God and how does God’s love make itself known to you?
- What might it mean that the Spirit is referred to as an “Advocate”?

*This Bible study was written by **Tim Hamlin***



+++++

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2022 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.
Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher. *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.174-175.
Invitation to the Table by Milner-White, Eric; from *My God, my glory*. SPCK, London, 1954; p.82, alt.

+++++

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12
Chelsea MI 48118
stbarnabaschelsea.org