



The Church of St. Paul, Cambria
• The 6th Sunday in Easter • May 14, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 8

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for
ever.

Amen.

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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

First Lesson

The first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles
(17:22-31)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and
said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you
are in every way. For 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. The 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, nor is he served by human hands,
as though he needed anything, since he himself
gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
From 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, so 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. For '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.' Since 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. While God has overlooked
the times of human ignorance, now he commands
all people everywhere to repent, because 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18

7 Bless 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.

9 For 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.

11 You 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.

13 I 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.

15 I 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;

17 But in truth God has heard me; * he has
attended to the voice of my prayer.

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

The **Second lesson** is from the First Letter of **Peter**
(3:13-22)

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do
what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing
what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what
they fear, and do not be intimidated, but 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; yet
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. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who 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. And 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. **John (14:1-14)**

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This 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. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Sermon Music

Here follows the Nicene Creed, all standing

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made

man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Let us now demonstrate the hope that fills our hearts by turning to God in prayer, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

(As the Spirit moves you, please take turns reading one or more of the petitions. Please observe a short silence at the indicated times.)

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all ministers of the gospel, that they may preach the word boldly and without apology. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all leaders of nations, that they may be unrelenting in their quest for peace. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all the suffering peoples of this world, especially those who suffer for doing right. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, those among us who experience desolation, especially those for whom God seems most remote. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all the sick and dying, that they may find life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, the newly baptized, that they may never cease to praise you for the hope that fills their hearts. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Empower with your Spirit, O Lord, all those who serve the common good during this time of pandemic, that they find shelter under your mighty wing and do your will. **We ask this in Jesus' name.** We pray for Jennifer and Sandra. **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Celebrant concludes

Gracious God, it is in the power of your abundant and life-giving Spirit that we call upon you in prayer. Deepen our hope in your presence and your promise; hear us in your tender love, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may begin the **Offertory** with the following sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn: 135

Prayer over the gifts: God of glory, accept all we offer you this day, and bring us to that eternal city of love and light, where Christ is King. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might *(Repeat)* **Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest** *(Repeat)* **Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest** *(Repeat)*.

Officiant

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, the perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Silence is held, then...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we receive these gifts. We know them to be sanctified by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body of

your Son, the Holy food of new and never ending life in him.

+Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this Holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant And now, we pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Bread is broken.

Officiant

Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

The Officiant presents the bread with the following or similar words.

These are the holy gifts of God for us, the holy people of God.

So come, those who have been here often and those who have not been for not been here long: those who have much faith, and those who wish to have more: those who have tried to follow Christ, who, like me, have failed. Come, for it is Jesus who is inviting you.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Faithful God, in baptism and eucharist we are made one with you. May we who have shared in holy things always bear witness to your covenant. Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and new alternatives, bring you new life, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Announcements

Anniversary/Thanksgiving Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 810 WLP

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!