

**+ Gathering +**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

**Gathering Song**

Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart.  
O, let the ancient words impart.  
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope.  
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us  
home.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words  
impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,  
Came to us through sacrifice.  
O, heed the faithful words of Christ.  
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart.  
O, let the ancient words impart;

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words  
impart.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you; We  
have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.  
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words  
impart.

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

p.34

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**+ Word +**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

**Acts 17:22-31**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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, <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>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."

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

**Psalm 66:8-20**

Let us recite Psalm 66 together, as printed in the hymnal:

- <sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard.
- <sup>9</sup>Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.
- <sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- <sup>11</sup>You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- <sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and  
water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- <sup>13</sup>I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—
- <sup>14</sup>those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- <sup>15</sup>I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of  
rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.
- <sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- <sup>17</sup>I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.
- <sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- <sup>19</sup>but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.
- <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

**Second Reading**

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

A reading from First Peter:

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>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, <sup>15</sup>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; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

**Gospel Reading**

**John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>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, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick

Hymn of the Day

#594

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, with ex-ul-ta-tion  
 2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay, death brood-ed fierce-ly  
 3 O God, you saw my deep dis-tress be-fore the world's foun-  
 4 You said to your be-lov-ed Son: "'Tis time to have com-



spring-ing, and, with u-nit-ed heart and voice and ho-ly  
 o'er me, sin was my tor-ment night and day; in sin my  
 da-tion, and, with your mer-cy mea-sure-less, you planned for  
 pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of my crown, and bring to



rap-ture sing-ing, pro-claim the won-ders God has done, pro-  
 moth-er bore me. My own good works all came to naught, free  
 my sal-va-tion. You turned to me a fa-ther's heart; you  
 all sal-va-tion; from sin and sor-row set them free; slay



claim the vic-t'ry God has won, how pre-cious was our ran-som!  
 will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, so firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
 did not choose the eas-y part, but gave your dear-est trea-sure.  
 bit-ter death for them that they may live with you for-ev-er."

5 The Son obeyed your gracious will,  
 was born of virgin mother;  
 and, your good pleasure to fulfill,  
 he came to be my brother.  
 His royal pow'r disguised he bore,  
 a servant's form, like mine, he wore,  
 to lead the devil captive.

7 "Now to my Father I depart,  
 from earth to heav'n ascending,  
 and, gracious wisdom to impart,  
 the Holy Spirit sending,  
 who will in trouble comfort you,  
 will teach you well, your faith renew,  
 and in all truth will guide you.

6 To me he said: "Stay close to me,  
 I am your rock and castle.  
 Your ransom I myself will be;  
 for you I strive and wrestle.  
 The foe will shed my precious blood;  
 all this I suffer for your good;  
 my life o'er death will triumph.

8 "What I on earth have done and taught  
 guide all your life and teaching;  
 so shall the glorious reign of God  
 increase, the whole world reaching.  
 Let none the gospel gift impede;  
 I make you free; be free indeed!  
 This final word I leave you."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: NUN FREUT EUCH, *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524  
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**Nicene Creed**

p. 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words on 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.**

\* universal

### Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names to be shared*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Peace**



+ **Thanksgiving** +

**Offering**

*While we are not gathering together in person, please continue to support the mission of the church as you are able.*

*Electronic donations can be made at*

*[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611).*

*Checks can be also be sent to church:*

*521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*

**Offering Prayer**

God of hope, we give you thanks for the gift of empty tomb and the risen Lord. We give you thanks for all of the financial gifts shared this week in support of the ministry at Grace. We give you thanks for all of the people who have shared their time, wisdom and creativity to be your hands and voice in the world. We may not be able to gather in-person, but no matter where we are physically, we are church together as we share our gifts to be God's people in our local community and throughout the world.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 17, 2020—9:45am Worship via Zoom**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**+ Sending +**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the Good News! **Thanks be to God.**

Reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012006,  
One License # A-726145, and CCLI License #1881789. All rights reserved.