

6th Sunday of Easter

Invocation

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor,
the Spirit of truth to be with you forever. Alleluia!

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn LHB 394 God is love let heaven

Confession and Declaration of Grace

Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to you that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God,

you have given your only Son to die for us.

Have mercy on us,

and for his sake

grant us forgiveness of all our sins.

By your Holy Spirit

increase our knowledge of you and your will,

and make us obedient to your word,

so that by your grace

we may come to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

Hymn LHB 119 Come down O love divine

Prayer of the day

Let us pray,

Lord God, the giver of all good things, inspire us to think what is right and guide us to do it. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31 Paul in Athens

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66

Praise our God, all peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard;

he has preserved our lives

and kept our feet from slipping.

For you, God, tested us;

you refined us like silver.

You brought us into prison

and laid burdens on our backs.

You let people ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water,

but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. (*Ps 66:1 NRSV*)

I will come to your temple with burnt offerings

and fulfil my vows to you—

vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke

when I was in trouble.

I will sacrifice fat animals to you

and an offering of rams;

I will offer bulls and goats.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Come and hear, all you who fear God;

let me tell you what he has done for me.

I cried out to him with my mouth;

his praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished sin in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened

and has heard my prayer.

Praise be to God,

who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22 Suffering for doing right

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 14:15-21 The promise of the Holy Spirit

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn LHB 443 Through all the changing scenes of life

Sermon

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Hymn LHB 277 Baptized into Thy name most holy

Prayer of the Church

Jesus promises that we are not left as orphans, but that he comes with his Father through his Spirit to make his home with us. Let us pray that God bless our homes with his healing presence.

Heavenly Father: thank you for the wonderful blessings you have given us, including our earthly families, and our spiritual family, the church. Thank you too for the psalms of praise. Make us thankful, and teach us to overflow with joyful praise.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for God's Church that is taking a new online and virtual form, and ask that the Word of God to permeate these online activities and touch people's hearts. We pray for Pastors and Church leaders as they are often

working long hours, going over and beyond to shepherd their congregations during this time of isolation.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all parents, grandparents and guardians. Thank you, Father God, for the opportunity to spend more time together with the members of our households. Be with all parents who are struggling with their increased load. Protect our children and their teachers as students return to school. Lord, we pray for those feeling lonely and grieving the loss of connection, of purpose and of freedom. Comfort the grandparents and grandchildren who are unable to visit.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for children who have been separated from their families, especially those who are in refugee camps and do not know if other family members are alive or of their whereabouts. Give them the support they need through the various aid agencies and help them to be reunited with loved ones where possible. Thank you for the work of ALWS and LCA International Mission as they share your love and word with struggling people around the world.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Meet the needs of those who are sick, facing surgery or recovering from surgery. Protect all who work in healthcare and comfort the families of the sick. In particular we pray for the people we now name in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you provide us with the care and nurture we need to grow as your newborn children. May your Son Jesus Christ come to us, so that in him we may live together with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn LHB 452 O bless the Lord, my soul

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen.