

# SPIRIT OF GRACE

Easter 6

May 9, 2021

The congregation's parts are in **bold**.

## PRELUDE

## EASTER SEASON ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "This is my commandment: Love one another."

**We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.**

Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants; but now I call you my friends."

**We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.**

Let us praise God and live in love and friendship toward the whole human family, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

## Goodness is Stronger than Evil



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

## **WELCOME AND GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

### **Psalm 98**

**1 Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.**

**2 With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.**

**3 The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.**

**4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

**5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

**6 Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.**

**7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.**

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

**9 Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before  
the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.**

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world  
and the peoples with equity.**

## **SECOND READING**

### **1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **John 15:9-17**.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Peggy Rose*

**INTERGENERATIONAL CREED**

**We believe in God, the Father, who is Our Leader, Loving, Our Protector,  
Compassionate, Our Provider and Caring.**

**The Father Created Us, Gave Us Life and Gave Us Freedom of Choice.**

**We believe in God, the Son, who is Holy, A Teacher, A Helper, A Friend, Giving and  
Thankful.**

**The Son Puts Others Before Himself, Sacrifices Himself for Us, Is Obedient and  
Shines.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who is Invincible, Powerful, A Leader,  
Overwhelming, Amazing, Loving and Awesome.**

**The Holy Spirit Picks You Up When You Are Down, Comforts You, Gives You a  
Shoulder to Cry On, Helps You Get Better, Provides Strength and Gives You  
Spirit. Amen.**

## SONG TO PREPARE FOR PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering especially Bugs, Raymond, Andrea, the Stamman family and the Hostler family. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives especially Dan and Fred. Keep us united with them in your lasting love.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **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 our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the  
wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke  
it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do  
this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This  
cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the  
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the  
mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people;  
throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ  
Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

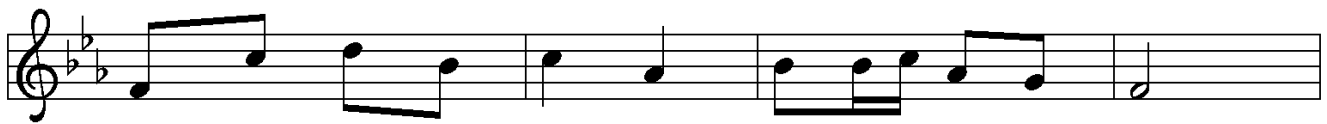
The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

*All are welcome at the table. It is God's Table and He gifts you with the finest He has.*

*Please come to the altar area, sending only one person from your family group to receive communion for your family. Wear your mask and maintain social distance from others in line. A collection basket will be available for you to place your tithes and offerings on your way to receive communion.*

## COMMUNION SONGS

### Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.



## **THIS IS AMAZING GRACE**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory the King above all kings  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory the King above all kings

*(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace*

*This is unfailing love*

*That You would take my place*

*That You would bear my cross*

*You laid down Your life*

*That I would be set free*

*Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me*

Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory the King of Glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

**Worthy worthy worthy**

CCLI Song # 6333821

Jeremy Riddle | Josh Farro | Phil Wickham

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**


## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# SENDING SONG

# Spirit of Gentleness

(verses 1-3)


*Refrain*




Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness




call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,




stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.




1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,  
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,  
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,  
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



*Refrain*

“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940  
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley  
Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE