



# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

## INTRODUCTION

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

## PRELUDE

*Alleluia No. 1*

Jeffrey Honoré

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



**St. Matthew's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-494-3090  
[www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

**P:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## NOW THE FEAST

### Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

### Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

**Verse 2**  
*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**  
*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

~ Please share a sign of peace with those around you

~Please be seated

### FIRST READING

**Acts 16:9-15**

*A reading from Acts, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter...*

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5**

*A reading from Revelation, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter...*

And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - please stand

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

## GOSPEL

**John 14:23-29**

*The holy gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter ...*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

*Holy Words, Holy Wisdom. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

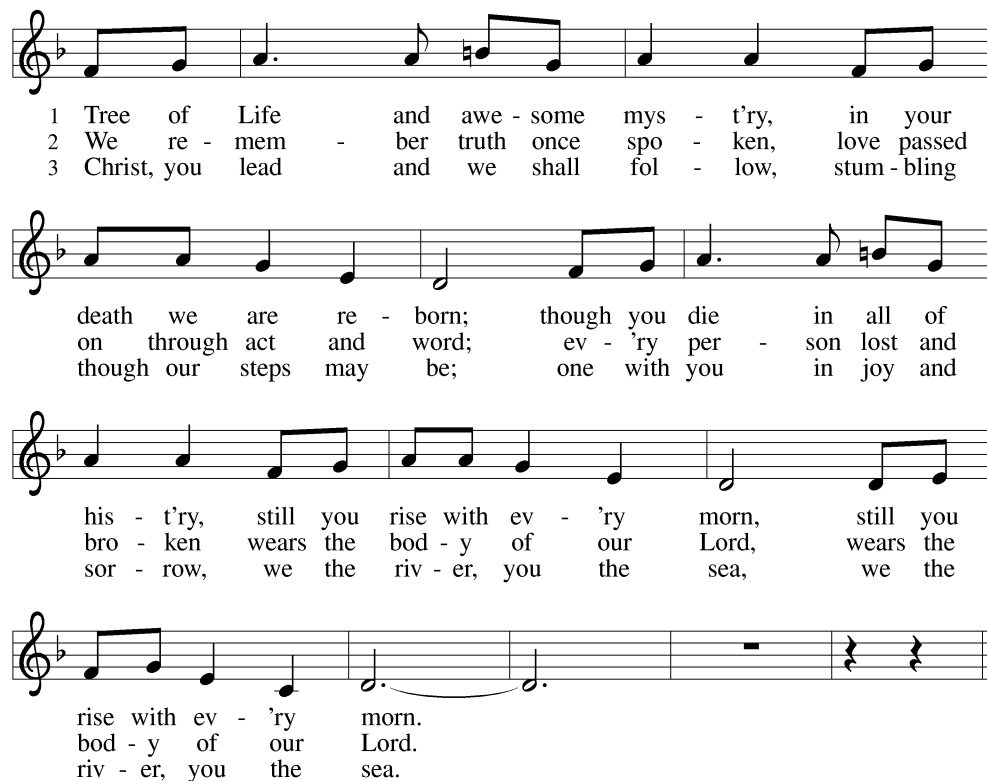
Eric Block

## MESSAGE

Pr. Bill Perry

## HYMN OF THE DAY ~Please stand *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (Verse 1, Lent 3, Lent 4, Verse 3)

ELW 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling

death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and

his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the

rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

### *General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
 give new strength to our believing,  
 give us faith to live your word

### *Lent 1*

From the dawning of creation  
 you have loved us as your own;  
 stay with us through all temptation,  
 make us turn to you alone.

### *Lent 3*

Living Water of salvation,  
 be the fountain of each soul;  
 springing up in new creation,  
 flow in us and make us whole.

### *Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
 make us children of your light.  
 Give us hearts to live more nearly  
 as your gospel shining bright.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** ~ *Please stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers*

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

~*A brief silence.*

A: God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace (especially). Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**OFFERING** *We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world. In lieu of passing the offering plate, we invite you to place your donations in the plate as you leave the sanctuary or donate online at [stmatthewsva.org/give](http://stmatthewsva.org/give). Your offerings go toward the mission of the church and allow us to respond to the needs in our congregation and community.*

**OFFERTORY**

*Jesus, Send Us On Your Mission*  
Senior Choir

Shepperd



## OFFERING SONG ~Please stand

## As the Grains of Wheat

**Refrain** *Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

**Verses**



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
to Refrain  
may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Living God,

**C: you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

P: It is indeed our work and joy that at all times and places we offer thanks and praise to you O God, through Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of life renewed. And so, this morning we join with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven. We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

## THE 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. 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

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

## COMMUNION ~Please be seated

All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. In lieu of coming forward to the chancel to receive communion, please remain seated and receive communion from your pew. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you. And the blood of Christ shed for you.

## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*



world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy on us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of the world:      grant us peace,



grant us peace,      grant us peace.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN ~Please stand

### *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

ACS 984



¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!  
May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,

Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.  
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.

Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,  
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,

luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.  
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.

O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos  
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our

de tu a - mor. joy with all; Lu - che - mos por la paz,  
work - ing for a world that's new,

fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.  
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt.  
Music: ARGENTINA, Argentine folk melody

## BLESSING

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED

## POSTLUDE\*

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!***

**John Leavitt**

*\*During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.*

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠   ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠   ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠   ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠   ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kirsten Laderach

kladerach@stmatthewsva.org

Guest Preacher: Pr. Bill Perry

Music/Choir Director: Kathy Lundgren

klundgren@stmatthewsva.org

Organist: Melvin Goodwyn

mmgoodwyn@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson

stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org

Tech Volunteers: Chris Moessner, Tom Meier, Mike Mazzucchi, Joyce Forbes

Lector: Ronald Trostel

Ushers:

**Altar Flowers** are given by the Bortner Families, *In celebration of Stephanie's and Thomas's birthdays.*



**Next week's readings:** Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

**For more announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)**

**MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - We're looking for volunteers to mow the grass at St. Matthew's! Mowing can be done on Fridays or Saturdays. Please sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius if you are interested in supporting this ministry.

**MAY BOOK GROUP MEETING** - May 22, 2:30PM - Join Book Group and journey back to early America with *The Pioneers: The Heroic Stories of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough.

**HILDA BARG MEAL SERVICE** - St. Matthew's is providing meal service at Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Shelter May 22 thru 28. Sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius to contribute.

**BILL MEHR DROP-IN CENTER LUNCH** - Help us provide lunch to clients of the Bill Mehr Drop-In Center for the homeless! Sign up to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius. Items may be placed in the church kitchen (marked for Bill Mehr) or brought to the church parking lot 5-6 PM on Thursday, May 26.