

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 14, 2023
ROGATION

*THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN CELEBRATION
OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DALE & MARY SCRACE*

READINGS: EZEKIEL 47:6-12; PSALM 147; ACTS 17:22-31; MARK 4:26-32

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME CAROLYN THIBIDEAU, ORGANIST; STEPHANIE DEAN, SOPRANO.

Organ: Chorale Prelude – "Behold, A Rose Breaks Into Bloom" - Johannes Brahms

Hymn 390, Praise to The Lord, The Almighty, The King of Creation

THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**
Send forth your Spirit, O Lord: **And renew the face of the earth.**

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.**

Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray

O God and Sustainer of all, it is well for us to remember that you are the Creator and the source of all being. Out of your love the universe was born, from primordial darkness you brought forth form and order and life, and you saw that it was good. In confidence and trust, you put the care of the world into our hands; an awesome and ultimate responsibility. May your Spirit lead and guide us to care for all your creation and all your creatures. Let us always nourish the earth and its diversity of life, share the gifts you have given us, and care deeply for each other. All this we pray through Jesus, our mentor and guide, who leads us to new life in you. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

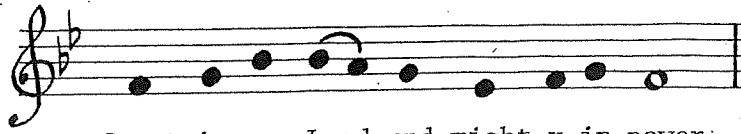
A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

In this vision of the heavenly temple, Ezekiel sees the river of life flowing to all creation.

God showed me the river flowing from the temple, and he said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?' Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

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

Psalm 147 is a psalm of trust by one who looks to the Lord for mercy and protection. The cantor sings the refrain; all then sing the refrain; and repeat as indicated.



Great is our Lord and might-y in power:

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp. He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; R. He makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve mankind. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. R. He is not impressed by the might of a horse; he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor. R.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

This lesson is Paul's address in a public forum to the curious citizens of Athens.

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."

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

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. Alleluia, etc.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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.

Prayers of the People

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Creation – From The New Zealand Prayer Book

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation: **For our world; The heavens tell of your glory;**
For our land, its beauty and its resources; **For the rich heritage we enjoy.**
We pray: for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth; **That we may use your gifts responsibly;**
For those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry; **That all may enjoy the fruits of their labors.**
For artists, scientists, environmentalists, thinkers, and visionaries; **That in their work we may see creation afresh.**
We thank you for giving us life; **For all who enrich our experience.**

We pray: for all who are deprived of fulness of life; **For prisoners, refugees, and those who are sick.**
For those in medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church; **For all who seek to bring life to others.**
We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation. **Give us reverence for life in your world.**
We thank you for your redeeming love; **May your word and sacrament strengthen us to love others.**

God, Creator: **Bring us new life.** Jesus, Redeemer: **Save us.** Holy Spirit, Sustainer: **Guide us.**

Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. We pray especially for: Jim Veit, Martha Bangs, Mary Greening, Donald Burton, Lori Praenior, Nancy Huckins, Susan Rich, Leanna Vernier, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Allen Berchem.

Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery; Yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives, yours is the guidance that has brought us challenges and opportunities. Be with us, your new creation, as we walk through this world, watching and learning, loving and trusting, until your kingdom comes on earth, as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All persons are invited to share in Christ's Resurrection and to receive the gifts of Christ's Presence in bread and wine. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand supported by the left; the wine by sipping from the cup or by dipping the bread. If you desire a blessing instead of receiving Communion, let the priest know when you come forward. Communion can also be brought to you where you are seated, if that is more convenient; please speak with a greeter.

Offertory Hymn 292, O Jesus, Crowned With All Renown

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Hearts and minds and souls and voices are lifted in thanks and praise to you, Lord God of heaven and earth. . . .
and joining with them in this hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;'. The second staff is labeled 'All' and contains the melody for 'There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.'.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ is truly raised from the dead,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

After all have received, please stand and pray together.

Eternal God; You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rogation Procession (insert)

The congregation follows the crucifer to the Labyrinth.

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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