

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - ROGATION – MAY 5, 2024

Readings: Ezekiel 47:6-12; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Readers: Jeanne Poleski and Magdalene Hanson

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!

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 merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

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

In my vision, the angel brought me to the temple entrance; there, water was flowing from below the threshold toward the east. It became a river deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. 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 from En-gedi to En-eglaim; 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. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. 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 98. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated by R.

Sing to the LORD a new song!

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. R. The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. 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. R. Shout with joy to the LORD all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the LORD. R. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. R.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

In this lesson we hear that belief in Jesus as the Christ, together with love of all God's children, form the heart of the Christian faith. To love God means to obey God's commandments and the essence of the commandments is the love of all who are of God.

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.

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

all stand – Hymn 178, vs. 1

**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, alleluia, etc.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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, Lord Christ.**

Hymn 292: O Jesus, Crowned With All Renown

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:

In our Diocese: Emmaus Church, Walled Lake; St. David's, Southfield; St. Michael's, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Episcopal Church in Brazil.

For Stephanie Dean's sister, married last weekend in Chicago – congratulations and best wishes to Laura and Fred Moore.

For those on our prayer list: Vicki, Christopher, Nina, Matthew, Bill Steiner, Karen Schulze, Richard Simonds, Jim Veit, Donald Burton, Ed Haug, Lynn Kerber.

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.**

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet each other briefly.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 405: All Things Bright And Beautiful, All Creatures Great And Small

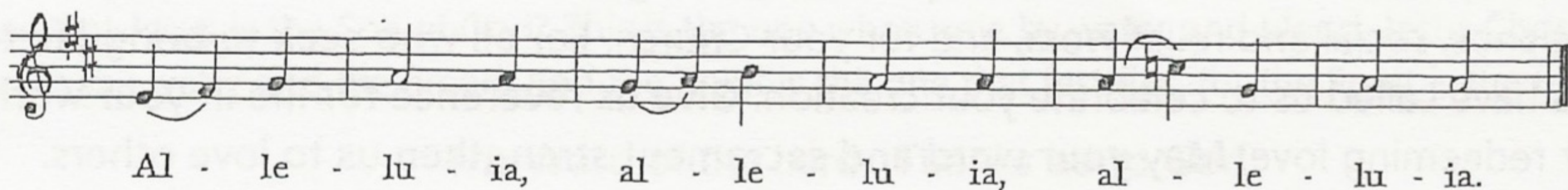
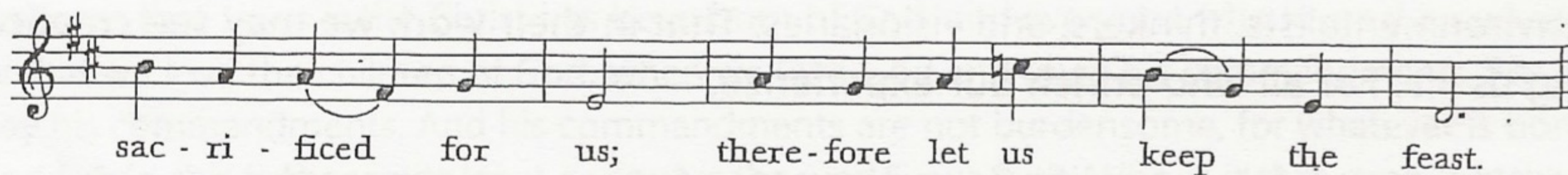
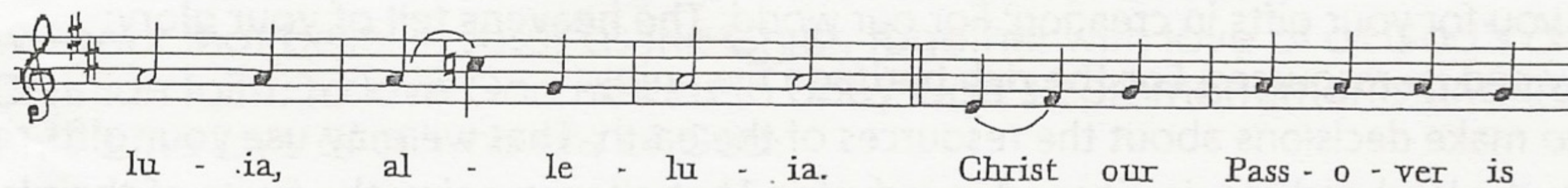
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

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 gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.
Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and be filled with thanks.

After all have received, please stand.

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.

A JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL!

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

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