



# AN AGAPE LITURGY

Christ Episcopal Church • Cape Girardeau, Missouri

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services

June 28, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## **Gathering: Liturgy of the Word**

---

Prelude

“Spring Song”

Richard Proulx

Opening Hymn

#661 They Cast Their Nets in Galilee

## **Opening Rite: Liturgy of the Light**

---

*All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words:*

*Officiant:* Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord’s Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord’s Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather [in-person and/or online], let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection.

*Silence may be kept for a time.*

*Officiant:* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*The following passage of Scripture may be read:*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*(Genesis 1:1-6)*

## **Prayer for Christ's Light**

---

*Candles may now be lit using the following prayer.*

*Officiant:* O God, we give thanks for the gift of your light – shining on the first day of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise.

*People:* You sent Jesus, light of the world, to be our way of truth and life. Help us to follow him each day and rest in him each night until at last we come to live with you in endless light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and with the Holy Spirit we give you honor and glory, now and always. *Amen.*

## **The Confession**

---

*As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.*

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Officiant:* Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; By what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*People:* We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

*Officiant:* For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

*People:* That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

*People: Amen.*

## Opening Acclamation

---

*Officiant:* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People:* Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Collect for Purity

---

*Officiant:* 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.

Hymn of Praise

#521 The Church's One Foundation

## The Collect of the Day

---

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

## The Readings

---

The First Reading: Genesis 22:1–14

God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked

up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### The Response: Psalm 13

1 **H**ow long, O LORD?

will you forget me for ever? \*

how long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day? \*

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; \*  
I will praise the Name of the LORD Most High.

## The Epistle: Romans 6:12–23

**D**o not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**The Gospel: Matthew 10:40–42**

**Officiant:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Edie Bird

**Affirmation of Faith**

---

*Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the sixth century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle’s Creed at the Eucharist. The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, for “I believe” or “I lend my heart to.” Either the Nicene Creed, the Apostle’s Creed, or the following may be used:*

**Officiant:** Let us affirm our faith. Do you believe in God?

**People:** We believe in God the Father the almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

**Officiant :** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People:** We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God’s only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Officiant:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

*People:* We 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.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

---

Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

That the love which passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all gathered here into your unending life, we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

For the leaders of the church (especially our Bishop, Deon), and for the leaders of the nations (especially our President, Donald Trump), that they may discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, and may reflect your unity in every aspect of common life, we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

That your self-disclosure in Christ and your enduring presence among us as Spirit may help us to understand both you and ourselves, made in your image and likeness, we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

For our families, our households, and our communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which build us

up and strengthen us in grace and truth, we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

Thankful for our world which you made through Christ, and renewed in the power of his resurrection, that we may be wise and careful stewards of creation, we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

In the power of the Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's enduring intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, and all who stand in need, especially . . . . For healing for all the world we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

For those who have asked for our prayers, and for those whose burden is too deep for words, especially . . . . , we pray:

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

Gracious God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father, accept our prayers this morning. By the inner workings of your Spirit, deepen our communion with you, the source and goal of our life, and make us more and more signs of your enduring love. This we pray through Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

---

*Officiant:* Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us:

*People:* Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. *Amen.*



## The Agape

---

*While sharing a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time, this liturgy expresses our longing for a time when we can once more share and gather together at the Eucharistic table. This practice of giving thanks for bread, wine and food is ancient, going back to the hospitality our ancestor Abraham showed to his visitors. While not the full celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that giving thanks over water is a reminder of our Baptism.*

*Instrumental music may be played or a hymn sung. A suitable space is prepared with wine, bread, and other foods.*

*The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of wine.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*People:* You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

*The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*People:* You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever.  
*Amen.*

*The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of food.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*People:* You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **The Conclusion**

---

*Officiant:* God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

*People:* You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.

*Officiant:* Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

*People:* Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

---

*The Peace is exchanged.*

*Officiant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

Closing Hymn

#656 Blest Are the Pure in Heart

## **The Sending**

---

*Officiant:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

*People:* *Amen.* [Alleluia!]

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord. [Alleluia, Alleluia!]

*People:* Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, Alleluia!]

*A simple meal may now be shared.*



## Veni Sancte Spiritus

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Cantor*

1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, from heav - en shine forth  
with your glo - rious light. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

2. Come from the four winds, O Spir - it, come breath of God; dis -

perse the shad - ows ov - er us, re - new and strength - en your

peo - ple. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

*Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.*

Words: Pentecost Sequence; Taizé Community, 1978

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

*You must contact GIA Publications, Inc. to reproduce this selection.*