

Perley Parish
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023

Prelude and Bell

Gathering Hymn: Now I Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Absolution:

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. Let us reconcile with God and with one another.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all the things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Psalm 66: 8-20 (Read responsively)

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, **who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.** For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. **You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;** you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings; I will pay you my vows,** those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. **I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. **I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.** If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. **But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.** Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

First Reading Acts 17:22-31

Then 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^[a] 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^[b] 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.'

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,¹ and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21, *Glory to you O Lord*

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message Message

Hymn of the Day/Offering: Love Divine, All Love Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us they humble dwelling, all they faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love though art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe they loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty

Offering Response: *We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone a trust o, Lord in thee.*

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great)

As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Meal

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

Words of Institution

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Blessing

The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, blesses us by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen

Bell

Sending Hymn: Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong:
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus take this heart of mine,
Make it pure and wholly Thine;
On the cross You died for me,
I will try to live for Thee. **[Refrain]**

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God**

Mark your calendars:

- Sunday, May 14 - 9am at Kirkebo
- Sunday, May 21 - 9am at Nora, 10am Last Day of Sunday School and fellowship time.
- Followed by all Perley Parish Congregation meeting with Pastor Melissa Pickering to review next steps for Rural Revival.
- Nora May Ushers: Sean & Anita Jalbert & Vern & Claudia Cleveland

