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**The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 14, 2023**

*Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.*

Opening Hymn . . . . . #466 - *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*  
Confession and Absolution. . . . . Page 151

**✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠**

Introit . . . . . Page 152

*Ps. 119; 89-93 antiphon: Ps 119:105*

Your word is a lamp | to my feet\*  
and a light | to my path.

Forever, O | LORD, your word\*  
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;\*  
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

By your appointment they | stand this day,\*  
for all things are your | servants.

If your law had not been | my delight,\*  
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

I will never forget your | precepts,\*  
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet\*  
and a light | to my path.

Kyrie . . . . . Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) . . . . . Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day . . . . . Page 156

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading . . . . . Page 156

*Acts 17:16-31*

<sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." <sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Gradual . . . . . Page 156

*adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6*

Christ has risen | from the dead.\*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands,\*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading . . . . . Page 156

*1 Peter 3:13-22*

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and

respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Choral Anthem

Holy Gospel . . . . . Page 157

*John 14:15-21*

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day . . . . . #490 - *Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*

The Sermon . . . . . *Christ Exaltation ~ 1 Peter 3:13-22*

*Miss a sermon visit Pastor Bogs' blog at rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at pastormendez.blogspot.com.*

Introduction

Today is \_\_\_\_\_.

What is our purpose in life \_\_\_\_\_.

Suffering for Evil

If we are good \_\_\_\_\_.

On the other hand \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse fifteen \_\_\_\_\_.

"Kill them with kindness," \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ's Example

The example of Jesus who \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus descended into hell to \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the example of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Peter's words on Baptism \_\_\_\_\_.

Christ is exalted \_\_\_\_\_.

What Does This Mean?

There is a difference between \_\_\_\_\_.

In times of suffering \_\_\_\_\_.

We get it right when \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, I encourage you \_\_\_\_\_.

Other Notes or Questions for the Pastor:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Creed

Prayer of the Church & Offering . . . . . Page 159

Offertory . . . . . Page 159

☩ ☩ ☩ *Service of the Word* ☩ ☩ ☩

Preface . . . . . Page 160

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus and Prayer of Thanksgiving . . . . . Page 161

Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord . . . . . Page 162

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei . . . . . Page 163

Distribution . . . . . Page 164

*Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our communion statement on the insert behind the pew Bible.*

Distribution Hymns . . . . . #594 - *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*  
#639 - *Wide Open Stand the Gates*  
#468 - *I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord) . . . . . Page 164

Nunc Dimittis . . . . . Page 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction . . . . . Page 166

Closing Hymn . . . . . #821 - *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*