Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 17, 2020  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

We Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid: Jesus is risen!  
This is the day the Lord has made,  
when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell  
and rose victorious from the grave.  
How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,  
is your mercy and loving-kindness to us,  
that to redeem a slave,  
you gave a Son.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
   si-lent-ly wash-es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,  
   var-i-ed in col-or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve,  
   these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
   si-lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

mas-ter who acts as a slave to them.  
all these are neigh-bors to us  
   far and near by  
this is the way we will live with you.  
we equip each other for ministry!  
we are sent to serve our neighbor!  
this is the day the Lord has made  
let us rejoice and be glad in it!
HYMN OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all 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.

Amen.
We Hear & Respond to God’s Word

YOUTH MESSAGE

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31
A reading from Acts:

22Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For 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. 24The 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, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From 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, 27so 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. 28For ‘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.’

29Since 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. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because 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!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 66:8-20

8Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.
9Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.
10For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.
11You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
12You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
13I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—
14those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
15I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.
16Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.
17I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.
18If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
19but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.
20Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.
SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

A reading from First Peter:

13 Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 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. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 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, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 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 persons, were saved through water. 21 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, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(sung) Christ is arisen from the grave’s dark prison. So let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be: Alleluia!

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 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.

18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY
“Jesus Loves Me”

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
his 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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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
Following Each Petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

NICENE CREED
Together with all Christians of every time, place, and
space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the
Nicene Creed:

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
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was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
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Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as 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; 
and 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.

PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always. 
And also with you.

OFFERING
This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING
May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. 
The Lord bless you and keep you. 
The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. 
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. 
Amen.

SENDING HYMN
“We’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored Chorus

Chorus And they’ll know we are Christians By our love, by our love Yes, they’ll know we are Christians By our love

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land Chorus

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride Chorus

All praise to the Father From whom all things come And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one Chorus
DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Let the service begin.
Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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