

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026



“Saint Paul delivering the Areopagus Sermon in Athens” by Benvenuto Tisi

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE REGINA CAELI

During Eastertide, the Regina Caeli replaces the Angelus as the prayer rung on the church bells before worship. One set of nine rings accompanies the anthem and another set of nine the concluding Collect. You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia;
For he who was born of your body, alleluia,

The second three bells Has arisen, as he promised, alleluia:
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

The third three bells Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

The nine bells O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, vouchsafed to give gladness to the world: Grant, we beseech you, that, with the help of the Virgin Mary his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form,
 3 Moth - er - ing Spi - rit, nur - tur - ing one,



in the bright morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of
 of - fer - ing me your food of light, grain of life, and
 in arms of pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 root and grow un - til I flow - er, un - til I know.

Words: Jean Wiebe Janzen after Julian of Norwich © 1991 Jean Wiebe Janzen. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant 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.*

SONG OF PRAISE



Come in - to God's pres - ence sing - ing, "Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

Words and Music: Anon, arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) © 1990 Celebration, PO Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001 [www.communityofcelebration.com]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

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 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 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.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE (*chanted in unison*)

Psalm 66:7-11, 14-18

- 7 Bless our God, you | **peoples**; *
 make the voice of God’s praise to be | **heard**;
- 8 Who holds our souls in | **life**, *
 and will not allow our feet to | **slip**.
- 9 For you, O God, have | **proved us**; *
 you have tried us just as silver is | **tried**.

- 10 You brought us into the | **snare**; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our | **backs**.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and | **water**; *
but you brought us out into a place of re|**freshment**.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear | **God**, *
and I will tell you what God has | **done for me**.
- 15 I called out to God with my | **mouth**, *
and praise was on my | **tongue**.
- 16 If I had found evil in my | **heart**, *
the Lord would not have | **heard me**;
- 17 But in truth God has | **heard me**; *
and has attended to the voice of my | **prayer**.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my | **prayer**, *
nor withheld steadfast | **love from me**.

THE EPISTLE

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, and do not be intimidated, 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; 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 persons, 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition, the people sing in response:



Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains two phrases of music, each corresponding to the text 'Lord, hear our prayer.' The second staff contains a longer phrase of music corresponding to the text 'Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.'

Text and Music: Liam Lawton, b. 1959; © 1995

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

**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.**

**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.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest says

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

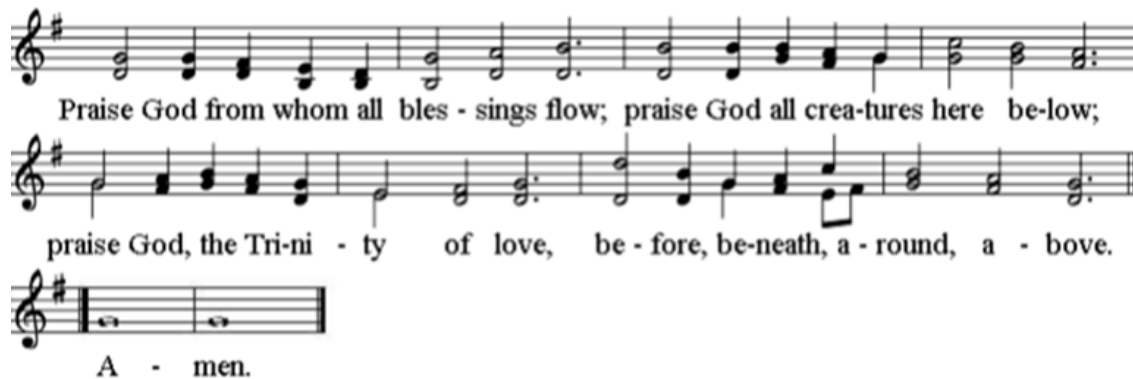
THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*sung by choir*)

DOXOLOGY (*sung in unison*)



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
 praise God, the Trinity of love, before, beneath, around, above.
 A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION CHANT

A - bide in me. A - bide in me.
 I in you and you in me, a - bide in me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm
 Words and Music © 2014 Hope Publishing Company

ABIDE
 4.4.7.4.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN (*see following page*)*The Hymnal 1982, #662*

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**