

Sixth Sunday in Easter
Sexto domingo de Pascua
Sunday, May 17, 2020
Domingo, 17 de mayo de 2020

Unity Lutheran Church of Berwyn
Grounded together in faith and love...
Bringing God's Word to life...
Embracing the community and the world...

Cimentados juntos en la fe y el amor ...
Dando vida a la Palabra de Dios ...
Abrazando la comunidad y el mundo ...

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

We are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

For in the beginning you created us in your image

In the desert you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

You sent the good shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

And on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

And for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

Through Jesus Christ our lord

In the unity of the holy spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



GATHERING SONG

What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2. When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

REETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

REETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.



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, the one who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is God served by human hands, as though needing anything, since that very God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor God 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 and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In God we live and move and have our being’; as even some

‘For we too are the offspring of God.’

²⁹“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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because God has fixed a day on which to judge the world in righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on 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.

¹³**I 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.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the |
smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I 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;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

SECOND READING:1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who 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.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, who will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, whom the world neither sees nor knows. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.

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

Pastor Julie Boleyn

HYMN OF THE DAY

Ubi caritas et amor

Where True Charity and Love Abide

Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures especially The Great Lakes, Chicago River, Des Plaines, and Fox Rivers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You care for the wellbeing of your children. Heal those ill with the COVID-19 virus, especially those in our church community, Mary Curtin-Vazquez, and the household of Astrid Schuler and Larry Disch. Protect health care workers, first responders, and all working in essential industries from this pandemic plague. During these times of isolation and hardship, let us feel your presence and bring us peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You send your people spiritual leaders. We give you thanks for Pastor Julie, Vicar Maria, our church council, Elider DiPaula and all who make it possible for us to continue to worship, and meet virtually, and serve our community. We give you thanks for those who make the Unity Food Bank and the Awake assistance program possible. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way especially members of our church community: Helen, Ethel, Ann, Jessica, Alberta, Pam, Evelyn, Donna, Linda, Virginia, Dorothy, Richard, Lucy, Jan, Mary, and Lucile. For those are dear to us: Abby, Mary, April, Robert, Rosa, Nan, Marcia, Maria and Toribio, Patricia, Judy, Gillian and Peter, Donald, Gloria, Edward, Barb, Carlos, Jennifer, Jacque, Erica, Citlali, Julia, Erika, Greg, Phil, Jerry, Katie, Kevin, the household of Astrid and Larry, and Robert. Surround all for whom we pray with care and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



THANKSGIVING FOR THE SPIRIT

Let us pray.

My Lord Jesus, you are truly present in the bread and wine we share together at the feast of communion. We love you above all things, and long for your presence. We long to share in the feast of life with you. In this time when we cannot share in the Body of Christ together, please come to our hearts, fill us with your Spirit. Grant us your grace. Surround us with your peace. For in the waters of baptism, you have already come to us, embracing us with your abundant life. Help us to remember that nothing can separate us from your love.

Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.



SENDING SONG

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

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

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



If you are able to do so, please do keep up with your offering. You can do so online at www.unityberwyn.org or by sending us an old-fashioned check. The church address is:

Unity Lutheran Church of Berwyn
6720 31st Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

If you need assistance, please contact Pastor Julie or Vicar María. We may be able to connect you with resources that can help.