

Order of Service – Easter 6

1

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118.24

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

2 *The Opening Canticle, A Song of Triumph (Venite)* Psalm 95

O come, let us sing out to the Lord:

let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his face with thanksgiving:

and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God:

and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth: w

and the peaks of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his and he made it:

his hands moulded dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down:

and kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is the Lord our God:

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Today if only you would hear his voice:

‘Do not harden your hearts as Israel did in the wilderness;

‘When your forebears tested me:

put me to proof though they had seen my works.

‘Forty years long I loathed that generation and said:

“It is a people who err in their hearts,

for they do not know my ways”;

‘Of whom I swore in my wrath:

“They shall not enter my rest.”

or the Easter Anthems (page 423) may be used during the Easter season.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

so let us celebrate the feast,

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

death has no more dominion over him.

In dying, he died to sin once for all:

in living, he lives to God.

See yourselves, therefore, as dead to sin:

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the first fruits of those who sleep.

For since by one man came death:

by another has come also the resurrection of the dead,

For as in Adam all die:

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

3 *The Opening Prayer*

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

Confession

A pause for self-examination, the Confession and Absolution (see note 1) may be used here.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

23 The Absolution. Standing, the priest says

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon us and set you free from all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness
and keep us in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 The Psalms as appointed. A pause is observed after each.

Psalm 66.7-19

7. O bless our God, you peoples:
and cause his praises to resound,
8. **Who has held our souls in life:
who has not suffered our feet to slip.**
9. For you have proved us, O God:
you have tried us as silver is tried.
10. **You brought us into the net:
you laid sharp torment on our loins.**
11. You let our enemies ride over our heads,
we went through fire and water:
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
12. **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings:
and I will pay you my vows,**
13. The vows that opened my lips:
that my mouth uttered when I was in trouble.
14. **I will offer you burnt-offerings of fattened beasts,
with the sweet smoke of rams:
I will sacrifice a bull and the flesh of goats.**
15. Come then and hear, all you that fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.
16. **I called to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue.**
17. If I had cherished wickedness in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me.
18. **But God has heard me:**

he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

19. Praise be to God:
who has not turned back my prayer,
or his steadfast love from me.

5 At the end of the (last) pause there may follow

Lord God, whose blessed Son rose in triumph and set us free: grant us the fullness of life he promised us, that through the Holy Spirit our hearts may possess him whom our eyes cannot see, the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

6 One or two Readings from the Bible as appointed.

1st Reading

A reading from the Book of Acts chapter 17 beginning at verse 22. (17.22-31)

22 Then Paul 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.’

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

A reading from the first letter of Peter chapter 3 beginning at verse 8. (3.8-22)

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

⁹Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;

but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰For

‘Those who desire life
and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;
¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good;
let them seek peace and pursue it.
¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’

¹³ Now 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 defence

to anyone who demands from you an account of 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 people, 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.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 14 beginning at verse 15. (14.15-21)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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 for ever.

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.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

May your word live in us

and bear much fruit to your glory.

7 The Canticle, The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus) Luke 1.68–79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:

who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of
all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:

holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness

and the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

8 The Apostles' Creed may be said.

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 from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge

the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

9 The Prayers

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

10 The Collect of the Day

Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of the Week

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant that we may walk in his way,
rejoice in his truth, and share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

11 Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.

12 The Morning Collect

Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13.14