

# THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020



Hymn: "Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain"

Sara Westermarck, soprano

<sup>n</sup>  
*Noël nouvelet*



1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the\_\_\_ bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom\_\_\_ hate had slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the\_\_\_ ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing,\_\_\_ or in pain,



wheat\_\_\_ that in dark earth man - y\_\_\_ days has lain;  
think - ing that nev - er he would\_\_\_ wake a - gain,  
he\_\_\_ that for three days in the\_\_\_ grave had lain,  
thy\_\_\_ touch can call us back to\_\_\_ life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that\_\_\_ spring - eth green.

**The Officiant begins with these sentences**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*Psalm 118:24*

*In observance of the Easter season, the confession will be omitted.*

**The service continues on p. 80, with the Invitatory Psalm and the Psalm of the day.**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Then follows this canticle: Christ our Passover**

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

**Psalm 66:7—18 (page 673 in the Book of Common Prayer)**

**Sara Westermarck, soprano**

Bless our God, you peoples; \*

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, \*

and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; \*

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

*(The psalm continues.)*

You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.  
You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.  
I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.  
I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.  
Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.  
If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;  
But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

*At the end of the Psalms is added:*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

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.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **Canticle 8: The Song of Moses (p.85)**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my refuge; the Lord has become my Savior. This is my God and I will praise him, the God of my people and I will exalt him. The Lord is a mighty warrior; Yahweh is his Name. The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea. The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; they sank into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy. Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders? You stretched forth your right hand; the earth swallowed them up. With your constant love, you led the people you redeemed; with your might, you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling. You will bring them in and plant them on the mount of your possession, The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established. The Lord shall reign forever and forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## A reading from the first letter of Peter

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.

*The word of the Lord*

**Solo:** "*The Grace Divine*"

tune: *Resignation*

**Sara Westermarck, soprano**

Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
In a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
Give up ourselves, through Jesus' power, His Name to glorify;  
And promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;  
We will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.  
We never will throw off the fear of God Who hears our vow;  
And if Thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.

Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,  
Present with Thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;  
To each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,  
And register our names on high and keep us to that day!

*Charles Wesley*

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 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." "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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 Homily

## **The Apostles' Creed (p. 96)**

*Officiant and People together*

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

## **The Prayers (p. 97)**

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            And also with you.

*Officiant*        Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

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.

## **Then follows the Suffrages, found on page 97**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## The Officiant then leads the congregation in the prayers

### The Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

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.*

### A prayer for transition

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon the people of St James Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we move through the search process for our new rector. Thank you for the faithful stewards you have provided, and will provide, for our leadership. We give thanks for those who have committed to serve on the Search Committee and ask for blessing on their endeavors. Give us discernment, wisdom, patience, and confidence in your timing. Help us to care for each other with mutual trust, respect, kindness, and clarity of purpose. You are the Good Shepherd, and we ask you to shepherd us throughout this journey. In the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

### Prayers in this time of pandemic

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In this challenging and uncertain time of global pandemic and public health crisis, we come before you offering our prayers on behalf of those in need, the church and the world.

We pray for the church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as a beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Rob our Bishop, Pierce our Interim Rector, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry, and all who minister in your name.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all affected by the coronavirus around the world. For the leaders of the nations that they may work together for the common good as the outbreak spreads. Grant public health and government officials the strength and will to act swiftly and decisively, with wisdom and compassion in service to all. We pray especially for our president, the Congress, Governors and mayors.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they have access to medical care and regain their strength and health; grant them your healing grace. Give strength to all who are caring for loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those known to our community who stand in need of God's healing power, remembering especially **Adrienne, Bill, Ede, Bouti (Booty), Amy, Josephine, Sarah, Max, Beth John, Terry, Tim, Joe, and Fred...** and others who we mention at this time.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for healthcare workers. Grant them courage and protection as they put the needs of public safety before their own. Bless scientists and researchers as they combat the virus, that their work may yield knowledge to develop a vaccine, treatments, and improved measures to reduce its spread.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Remove the presence of fear and anxiety from our hearts, that confident in your providence we may be generous in sharing our resources. Grant that our churches and communities of faith may reflect your love, as they minister to the most vulnerable among us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**



We pray for those who have already lost loved ones to the virus and those who will yet suffer such loss that they may know the consolation of your love. In this Easter season, we pray for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, including.... And those in whose loving memory flowers have been given.... that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

### The Concluding Collect

Holy and sovereign Lord, when the earth and all its people quake, you hold its pillars firm. What is uncertain and frightening to us is completely known to you and controlled by you. Look mercifully on the people of St James Parish. Although at this time we are apart from each other, we pray your Holy Spirit will unite us as one. Pour upon us your peace which passes all understanding, keep us safe and healthy, and above all, keep us mindful of those to whom we should show the love and compassion of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn 191: *“Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heaven-ward raise”*

*Lux eoi*

Sara Westermarck, soprano



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts and voic - es heaven-ward raise:  
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,  
3 Christ is ris - en, Christ, the first - fruits of the ho - ly ha - rvest - field,



sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, on his res - sur - rec - tion morn.  
which will all its full a - bun - dance at his se - cond com - ing yield:



He, who on the cross a vic - tim, for the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by his might - y en - ter - prise:  
then the gold - en ears of harv - est will their heads be - fore him wave,



Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.  
we with him to life e - ter - nal by his re - sur - rec - tion rise.  
ri - pened by his glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.

*Before the close of the Office, one or both of the following may be used*

## **The General Thanksgiving (p. 101)**

*Officiant:*

Let us sum up our prayers in the words of the General Thanksgiving, found on p. 101.

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*Then may be said*

Let us bless the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following**

The grace of our 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*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20, 21*



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