

announced that the relationship we have with Him is loving friendship, a rare and precious gift. Here is someone who loves us in spite of who we are. We come to Him in honesty, and He will not turn us away. Jesus mirrors the Father's Love in the way He loved His disciples. Jesus then proclaimed that love as the manner in which they are to mirror Him and love one another. In the keeping of His commands (in keeping His Word) the disciples will love God and love each other.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord God, Your divine thoughts and sublime ways are as far removed from ours as the heavens are from the Earth. You live to bless and to communicate life, Love, beauty and joy throughout Your universe. Receive with pardon Your penitent children, as we attempt to praise and glorify You for Your great goodness and special gifts.

We give You our heartfelt thanks for the precious gift of Your Son Jesus, Whom You sent that we might have life and have it more abundantly. To accomplish His mission He innocently suffered in meekness and humility the afflictions of this life, took our sins and infirmities in His own body, and carried them to His death on the cross. For this great salvation, for our deliverance from the dominion of death by His Resurrection, we sing His Holy name.

Bless Your Church and let us be, here in this congregation and everywhere in the world; a loving union of the faithful, a Holy Communion in sacred things, a people of faith and prayer, as we are exercising a true religion in the performance of every merciful work. Through Your Church send forth Your Word, O God, into all the world, that in the power of Your truth it will accomplish Your will.

Bless all our loved ones, O Lord of health and peace. Especially we bring before You those who are sick and those who mourn. For Your people the world over, who are suffering in any manner of body or soul, we ask that You would seek them out in their distress bringing to them the confidence and the wonder of Your Love. For our nation, for our state, for our county, our city, and our homes we ask Your special intervention on our behalf.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Keep us grounded in Your work and commands, that abounding in Your Love we will know that when we work for You it is never in vain. In the blessed name of Jesus, we pray.

© Amen.

EASTER SIX

Chant Tone



Introit

Come and hear, all you who — fear God,*
and I will tell what He has done | for
my soul.

Shout for joy to God, | all the Earth;*
sing the glory of His name; give to
Him — glorious praise!

Bless our God, — O peoples;*
let the sound of His | praise be heard,
Who has kept our soul among the
— living*
and has not let our — feet slip.

Blessèd — be God,*
because He has not rejected my
prayer or removed His steadfast
| love from me!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Come and hear, all you who — fear God,*
and I will tell what He has done | for
my soul.

(Antiphon, Psalm 66:16;
Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20)

Collect of the Day

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*
He has put all things un | der His feet.

(adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord, You have done marvelous things. Through the Resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You brought victory over the grave. You revealed that victory to reliable witnesses, who were sent forth to spread the Good News. You have given the gift of Your Holy Spirit to both Jew and Gentile. For using Your power on behalf of the human race, we give You our deepest thanks. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may more adequately bear the fruits of Your Love. Help us show this love impartially, even to those with whom we do not agree. May we reflect Your love in our home, church and world. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

GOD CREATED THE WORLD IN LOVE, GOD REDEEMED THE WORLD IN LOVE, GOD SUSTAINS THE WORLD IN HIS LOVE.

The new command given by Jesus established the era of the New Testament Church. Our goal is to bring "Jesus' Love" to all the people of the world, allowing them to know what we know, allowing them to see what we have seen, allowing them to hear what we have heard; the message of Jesus Christ for our salvation. Therefore we welcome all who worship with us today. May the God of all Love bless you and keep you. We especially welcome our visitors, those of you who are from near and from far away. If you are traveling through, we ask you to come worship with us any time you are in the neighborhood. If you are looking for a church to call your home, we ask that you consider joining your worship with ours every Sunday. We would be happy to answer all of your questions after worship.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Love

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 66:16;) Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20
Psalm 66 is a general thanksgiving psalm. It does not have an author stated. It was used for worship purposes. Psalm 66 praises God for His dominion and power. We are to praise God because we have been made to be His people through His work.

COLLECT

We developed this prayer during the 1982 revisions. We ask to have our thoughts (therefore our prayers) in line with the thoughts of God.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 10:34-38

This text marks a turning point in Peter's life as a missionary. Peter had some apprehension about telling the Gospel to people of faiths and cultures other than his own. The discipline in which he was trained did not permit him to cross certain boundaries. By a vision from Heaven he was convinced that before God racial, ethnic, and social distinctions do not count. Peter, (a Jew,) was in the house of Cornelius, (a Gentile.) Peter proclaimed himself opened by God to a true understanding. The church's message to the world is Jesus. He did all that was necessary to bring us back to God. The Spirit who declared Jesus as God's beloved in His Baptism is the same Spirit who empowers all the Baptized to declare God's praise to the nations.

GRADUAL—(adapted from) Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6
This is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 John 5:1-8

This week and next we finish reading the majority of the book of first John. There are those who teach that this is not the same John as the Apostle "whom Jesus loved." I teach that this is not only the same Apostle John, but that he wrote the Epistles before he wrote the Gospel. He became aware of many mistaken notions about Jesus. He cleared them up with the additional information he provided in the Gospel. As he wrapped up this first letter he confronted one of those mistaken notions, "If Jesus was God then He could not die." John emphasized that it was by water and blood that Jesus lived and died and those agree with the scripture, (Zechariah 12:10 combined with Zechariah 13:1.) This is further explained by John in the Gospel: John 19:34-35.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 15:9-17

Jesus calls us His friends. In the middle of this reading He declares His friendship with us. Amidst all the talk of love, joy and obedience, Jesus