

Sunday Worship - May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Baptism



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Narrative Lectionary Week 34 - The Season of Easter
The Letter to the Romans: New Life in Christ

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

Welcome to Worship

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you;

**All: my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

**All: My soul will be satisfied as with a rich feast.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call upon your name.**

*HYMN #664 Morning Has Broken

*1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*

*PRAYER FOR EASTERTIDE

Leader: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4, NRSV)

We approach the font of our identity confident of God's grace and mercy toward us,
but also needing to confess the ways we have turned away from God.

The grace of God is an abundant feast, spread for all people.

The love of God is a deep fountain, overflowing in the world.

Trusting in God's abundant grace and deep love, let us confess our sin together:

**All: Eternal and merciful God,
you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake;
Yet, we have strayed from your way;
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done and what we have left undone,
and we have wandered from your pathway.
As we remember the cleansing water of baptism, O God,
we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again.
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.**

Time of Silence

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: If we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:5, 11). Be at peace. Our sins are forgiven and newness of life is ours.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE Day by Day (sing through three times)**

Day by day, day by day

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly, day by day (by day by day by day)

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Today is a new day! New life is rising among us.

All: With the past behind us and the future open before us, we celebrate the new life Christ brings.

Leader: Christ is with us!

All: Christ is with us indeed!

DISCOVERY TIME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Augusta Joy Riechers, child of Daniel and Marie Riechers

RESPONSE I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (REFRAIN)

I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Romans 6:1-14 (Common English Bible) - New Life in Christ

Reader 1: So what are we going to say? Should we continue sinning so grace will multiply? Absolutely not! All of us died to sin. How can we still live in it? Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his.

Reader 2: This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him.

All: We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. He died to sin once and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Reader 2: So then, don't let sin rule your body, so that you do what it wants. Don't offer parts of your body to sin, to be used as weapons to do wrong. Instead, present yourselves to God as people who have been brought back to life from the dead, and offer all the parts of your body to God to be used as weapons to do right. Sin will have no power over you, because you aren't under Law but under grace.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

HYMN #692 Spirit, Open My Heart

REFRAIN: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. REFRAIN

2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.

In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. REFRAIN

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.

In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. REFRAIN

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God. We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

OFFERTORY

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church or given online at www.firstpresmv.com

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Generous God, we give thanks for all that you have provided for us.

Daily we respond by offering our gifts and ourselves to you with the hope that you will use them and us for your work in the world. Open our hearts and minds to what you are up to, O God. Give us eyes to see the world as you see it, and the imagination to dream—and work for—the world you desire. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

*HYMN #246 Christ Is Alive!

*1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time*

*3 In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.*

*4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the Life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation.

Thank you to the following people for serving this morning:

Shane Austerman, Liturgist
Sue Deibner, Ruling Elder
Scott Larson & Gerald Gerber, AV Crew
The Choir
Sunday School Teachers
Penny Gerber, Coffee Hour Host

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor
Jonathan Walsh, Director of Christian Education
Julia Andrews, Director of Music
Donna Warhover, Office Manager
Trent Bowman, Custodian