St. John’s Episcopal Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Rite II
& Mother’s Day

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Virginia W. G. Army

May 9, 2021

Prelude
Processional Hymn #291  We Plow the Fields and Scatter the Good Seed

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation
The Book of Common Prayer  BCP p.355

The Collect of the Day:  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.

The First Lesson
Acts 10:44-48: While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98, Cantate Domino
1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
   for he has done marvelous things.
2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
   has he won for himself the victory.
3 The LORD has made known his victory;
   his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4 He remembers his mercy and
   faithfulness to the house of Israel,
   and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
   lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
   with the harp and the voice of song.
7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
   shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
   the lands and those who dwell therein.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
   and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
   and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson 1 John 5:1-6:
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gradual Hymn #400  All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1-2 before, vs. 3 after)

The Gospel John 15:9-17: Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved..."
you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Holy Eucharist

A Prayer for Assurance of Christ’s Presence (“An Act of Spiritual Communion”)

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, Amen.

Solo

Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, He declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

Benediction and Blessing

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought

Postlude

Dismissal

God of abiding love, you choose us as your servants and dare to call us friends: take our fragmented hearts, commanding them to love, making whole our joy, our life reborn in you; through Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us. Amen.

My Mother Kept A Garden

My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life it’s start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem...
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough-
But not too much because she knew
I’d need to stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother’s garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me.

Author Unknown

A Blessed and Happy Mother’s Day