

# TURTLES



*the Wilderness*

“Several summers ago, my children found two turtles and put them in the vegetable garden. During a thaw the next February, as I was digging up the soggy soil where the peas go, I lifted a heavy mound with my shovel, and then another. The two turtles had burrowed down for winter sleep, and I had rudely awakened them too soon. So I carried them to a corner of the garden where I would not disturb them and dug them in again. When my wife said that she feared the turtles might be dead, I said I did not think so (though I wasn’t as sure as I sounded). I insisted that in spring, they would come up. And they did in Easter week.

“Lilies and hyacinths signify the resurrection, and I can understand why. But I have a pair of turtles that plant themselves in my garden each fall like two gigantic seeds and rise on Easter with earthen crowns upon their humbled heads. With the women at the tomb, I marvel.”

- Vigen Guroian

The Wilderness  
The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 29, 2022

*Please silence all phones and other electronic devices before the service begins.*

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

The Wilderness Musicians

GATHERING SONG



OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Alleluia. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and liberation.

*People* Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Presider* God is with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, righteous one, your beloved Son prayed that his disciples in every generation might be one as you and he are one. Look upon this assembly gathered in his name. Fulfill in us the prayer of Jesus and crown our celebration of this paschal season with your Spirit's gift of unity and love. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in union with the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

*All sit.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day, when we were on the way to the place for prayer, we met a slave woman. She had a spirit that enabled her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners through fortune-telling. She began following Paul and us, shouting, "These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!" She did this for many days. This annoyed Paul so much that he finally turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!" It left her at that very moment. Her owners realized that their hope for making money was gone. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the officials in the city center. When her owners approached the legal authorities, they said, "These people are causing an uproar in our city. They are Jews who promote customs that we Romans can't accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attacks against Paul and Silas, so the authorities ordered that they be stripped of their clothes and beaten with a rod. When Paul and Silas had been severely beaten, the authorities threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to secure them with great care. When he received these instructions, he threw them into the innermost cell and secured their feet in stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. All at once there was such a violent earthquake that it shook the prison's foundations. The doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose. When the jailer awoke and saw the open doors of the prison, he thought the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul shouted loudly, "Don't harm yourself! We're all here!" The jailer called for some lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He led them outside and asked, "Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household." They spoke the Lord's word to him and everyone else in his house. Right then, in the middle of the night, the jailer welcomed them and washed their wounds. He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his home and gave them a meal. He was overjoyed because he and everyone in his household had come to believe in God.

*Reader*     Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*      Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97 *All sing*



The Lord rules: the earth is eager, joy touches | distant | lands.  
 God is wrapped in thunder cloud, throned on | justice, | throned on | right.  
 Fire marches out in front and burns up | all re- | sistance.  
 Overhead, God's lightning flares, the | earth shudders | to see | it.  
 Mountains melt down like wax before the Lord, the | ruler of | all.  
 Overhead God's justice resounds, a | glory all | people can | see.  
 Idolators are the fools, they brag of | empty | gods.  
 You gods, be | subject | to the | Lord! Zion hears, and is happy.  
 The cities of Judah are joyful about your | judgments, | Lord.  
 You, Lord, you reach high in majesty above the earth,  
 far | higher than | any | god. Those who love the Lord hate evil;  
 God shields their | faithful | lives and breaks the | hold of | the | wicked.  
 Light will rain down on the just, joy on the | loyal | heart.  
 Be joyous in the Lord God, you people of faith, | praise God's | holy | name!

*All stand.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
 He is the King of creation.  
*Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
 Jesus has died and has risen.  
*Refrain*

## THE GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

*Presider* The Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* Praise and glory to Christ.

“I’m not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me. “Father, I want those you gave me to be with me where I am. Then they can see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world. “Righteous Father, even the world didn’t know you, but I’ve known you, and these believers know that you sent me. I’ve made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that your love for me will be in them, and I myself will be in them.”

*Presider* Good News from the Lord.  
*People* Praise to Christ, the Word.

*The People are seated.*

## THE REFLECTION

### OPEN SPACE

*The People are invited to wander in prayer or remain in their seats.*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Presider* God of new creation, we offer to you our joys, concerns, and disappointments, trusting in your promise to hear us.  
*People* Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Presider* Christ’s peace is with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*The People greet one another with a sign of Peace and are then seated for announcements.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG

The Wilderness Musicians

*All stand.*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

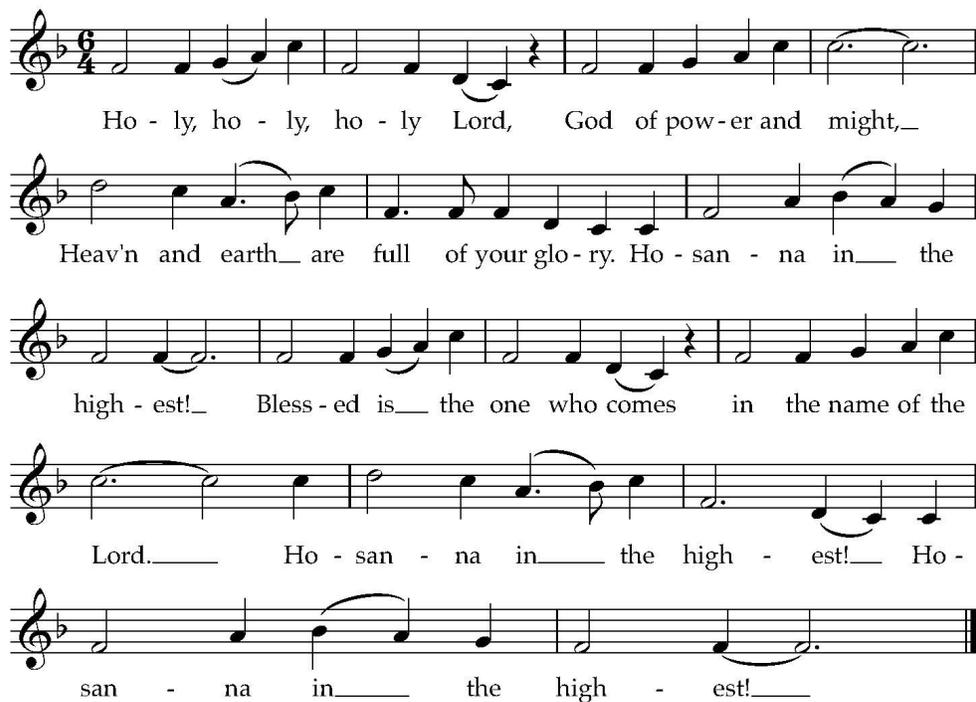
*Presider* God is with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to our Lord God.  
*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears:  
In the life, death, and resurrection of your Christ,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets to make known  
your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time,  
you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In concert with choirs of martyrs, angels,  
and saints that praise your name night and day we sing,

## SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *All sing*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, -  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! - Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

### *The Presider continues.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*People* Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return to free  
the whole earth from the bonds of enslavement and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

*People* Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to make this bread and wine  
the Body and Blood of our Son  
and fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love  
and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

*People* Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets  
and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through Christ, with Christ,  
and in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, Holy God,  
now and forever.

*The musicians and people sing*  
Amen.

*Silence.*

As Jesus taught his friends, we now pray,

*Presider and People*

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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread and says,*

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the Bread.

*The Presider and assistant break the Bread and fill the chalices with Wine.*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Table now is ready. Feast on Christ.

*Following the invitation to Communion, the Ministers and People receive the Sacrament.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The Wilderness Musicians

*All stand.*

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

We thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven  
and satisfying us with the cup of freedom.

Send us from this place as signs of your Presence  
as we join you in repairing this fractured world.

Through our Healer and Friend, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*Presider*

You have received the Body of Christ, now become the Body of Christ, broken, poured out, and risen for the life of the world. The blessing of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity be upon you this day and remain with you for ever.

*People*          Amen.

## CLOSING SONG



1. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ Let Chris - tians sing. \_\_\_ His cross stands
2. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ No long - er bound \_\_\_ to dis - tant
3. Not throned a - bove, \_\_\_ re - mote - ly high, \_\_\_ un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war \_\_\_ where co - lor,
5. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ His Spi - rit burns \_\_\_ through this and



emp - ty \_\_\_ to the sky, \_\_\_ Let streets and homes with prais - es \_\_\_  
years in \_\_\_ Pal - es - tine, \_\_\_ he comes to claim the here \_\_\_ and \_\_\_  
moved by \_\_\_ hu - man pains, \_\_\_ but dai - ly, in the midst of \_\_\_  
scorn or \_\_\_ wealth di - vide, \_\_\_ he suf - fers still, yet loves the \_\_\_  
ev - ery \_\_\_ fu - ture age, \_\_\_ till all cre - a - tion lives and \_\_\_



ring, \_\_\_ His love in death \_\_\_ shall nev - er die.  
now \_\_\_ and con - quer ev - ery \_\_\_ place and time.  
life, \_\_\_ our Sa - vior with \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ Fa - ther reigns.  
more, \_\_\_ and lives, though ev - er \_\_\_ cru - ci - fied.  
learns \_\_\_ his joy, his jus - tice, \_\_\_ love, and praise.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Alleluia! Alleluia! We have seen the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



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The Very Reverend Richard Lawson *Dean*  
The Reverend Canon Broderick Greer *Canon Precentor*  
The Reverend Canon Katie Pearson *Canon Pastor*