

# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus

May 24, 2020

10:00 AM Service

Holy Communion



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**Online Services: Sunday @ 8 and 10 AM**

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*Elegy*

G. Thalben-Ball

*Symbols in the Bulletin:* **P** Priest, **D** Deacon, **C** Congregation, **L** Leader

THE GATHERING HYMN

*God of the Ages*

***God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.***

***From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.***

***Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

- ℘ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☩ **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## THE GATHERING PRAYER

- ℘ We gather in the name of our Easter God:
- ☩ **Our Risen Lord transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.**
- ℘ We rejoice in the power of our Easter God:
- ☩ **Our Father's love redeems every Good Friday nightmare into the promise of eternal life.**
- ℘ We embrace the purposes of our Easter God:
- ☩ **The Holy Spirit challenges us to leave tomb-like safety and invites us to live our faith boldly.**
- ℘ We are Easter people:
- ☩ **We are a sign that indeed miracles happen, and that with God, all things are possible.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

*The Church's One Foundation*

H. 525 vs 1, 2

***The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the word:  
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.***

***Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.***

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

- ℘ The Lord be with you.
- ☩ **And also with you.**
- ℘ Let us pray...

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- ☩ **Amen.**

## WORD OF GOD

**THE READINGS:** Sirach 34:14-20 • Psalm 121 • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Luke 24:44-53

### The First Reading:

📖 *The First Reading is taken from Sirach chapter 34.*

The spirit of those who fear the Lord will live, because their hope is in the one who saves them. Those who fear the Lord won't be timid about anything; they will never turn coward, because the Lord is their hope. The souls of those who fear the Lord are favored. To whom do they look? And who is their support? The Lord's eyes are upon those who love him. The Lord is a powerful shield, a strong support, a shelter from the heat, a shade from the midday sun, a guard against stumbling, and a help against falling; one who lifts up the spirit, one who gives light to the eyes, and one who gives healing for life and blessing.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

### Metrical Psalm 121

*Tune: O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

***We lift our eyes up to the hills,  
From where shall we find aid?  
Our help will come from you, Lord God,  
By whom the world was made.***

***You will not let our feet be moved,  
You watch by day and night;  
You do not sleep, for Israel  
Is always in your sight.***

***You, Lord, keep watch above your own  
And give us shade at noon,  
The sun shall not strike us by day  
Nor yet at night the moon.***

***The Lord shall save us from all harm,  
Preserve our lives in peace,  
And watch us as we come and go;  
God's care will never cease.***

## The Second Reading:

☒ *The Second Reading is taken from Ephesians, Chapter 1...*

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### *Celtic Alleluia*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## The Gospel

Ⓓ *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

🔊 **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Ⓓ Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

Ⓓ The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Becky Robbins-Penniman

SERMON HYMN

*Come Away to the Skies*

H 213

***Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise  
and rejoice in the day thou wast born;  
on this festival day, come exulting away,  
and with singing to Zion return.***

***Now with singing and praise, let us spend all the days,  
by our heavenly Father bestowed,  
while his grace we receive from his bounty, and live  
to the honor and glory of God.***

***For the glory we were first created to share,  
both the nature and kingdom divine!  
Now created again that our lives may remain,  
throughout time and eternity thine.***

## THE NICENE CREED

**☩ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- ☩ Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered all people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray.**
- ℣ Risen Lord, we pray for your Church, that it may continue your work of reconciling all people to God; for our clergy and our bishops; for the many lay people who serve the church and serve others through the church.**
- ☩ We pray for all gathered in worship and prayer, here and around the world.**
- ℣ Risen Lord, we pray that the joy of Easter may ever grow within us and the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may cease.**
- ☩ We pray that a passion for justice, peace, and the common good will fill each of our hearts, and for the Spirit to guide us in lives of active faith.**
- ℣ Risen Lord, we pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, and those who struggle, [especially for... *add names from notebook*]. Please name those on your heart, silently or aloud. [*Leave time...*] Comfort, restore and heal them.**
- ☩ We pray that the troubles facing us will teach us that we endure nothing alone, but that you are always present, creating, redeeming and sustaining us every step of our journey through life.**

℣ Risen Lord, we give thanks for the multitude of gifts you shower upon us, for the beauty of this home you have created for us, for medical workers, first responders and all who work on the frontlines to care for and heal the sick. We give thanks for the flowers given this Memorial Day by Joe Hall in memory of those who gave everything. Grant us a sense of joy for all the blessings of this life and wonder in all your works.

☩ **We give thanks for our lives and the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors near and far, and praise you for your mercy and care for us.**

℣ Risen Lord, we pray for those who have died, [especially for... *add names from notebook.*] Please name those on your heart, silently or aloud. [*Leave time...*] May the hope born of Easter give both them and us peace, acceptance and renewal.

☩ **Heavenly Father, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREETING OF PEACE

ℙ The peace of the Lord be always with you.

☩ **And also with you.** (*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*)

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

℣ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. Bring your tithes, gifts and offerings with a heart full of gladness.

#### THE OFFERTORY

*At the River*

A. Copland

#### THE PRESENTATION

℣ We gladly present the fruits of our lives to the God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us. May we have the grace to use them to heal God's world.

#### THE PRESENTATION HYMN

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

***We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first-fruits give.***

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER [Enriching Our Worship 1]

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with Angels and Archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

**P** Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

**P** Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

**P** On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



**P** As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

**P** Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

**Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.**

**P** Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**P** And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**AI** **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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**P** Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the Bread.

**C** **We come with joy to meet our Lord.**

**P** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE CHANT

*Bless the Lord, My Soul*

***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Let us pray...

**G** God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

**P** The God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth, who walks where least expected, who disturbs the comfortable and comforts the distressed, and whom death could not control, now sends you out to announce with your lives that the Lord is risen indeed. Go, you are blessed in the name of our Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## THE SENDING HYMN

*O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies*

H 719

***O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.***

***O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.***

***O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.***

## THE DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve our Risen Lord!

**G** Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

**SERVING US TODAY**

Celebrant	Becky Robbins-Penniman
Deacon	Cindy Roehl
Priest Associate	Ann Chaplin
Organist	Robert Moncrief
Acolyte/Crucifer	Carey Cherivtch
Lector	Nancy Fisher
Prayers of the People	Carolyn Hughes