THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus

May 24, 2020 8:00 AM Service

Holy Communion: Rite One





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Online Services: Sunday @ 8 and 10 AM

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Symbols used in the bulletin: P Priest @ Congregation L Lector]

PRELUDE Elegy G. Thalben-Ball

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

- Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE GATHERING PRAYER

- P We gather in the name of our Easter God:
- Our Risen Lord transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.
- P We rejoice in the power of our Easter God:
- Our Father's love redeems every Good Friday nightmare into the promise of eternal life.
- P 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.
- P We are Easter people:
- **We** are a sign that indeed miracles happen, and that with God, all things are possible.

THE GLORIA

- Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards all.
 We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
 we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King,
 God the Father Almighty.
 - O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- And with thy Spirit.
- 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

L 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.

- **I** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

- We will read responsively from Psalm 121...
- L I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
- L He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

- So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.
- The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

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:

- The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
- Glory be to thee, O Lord.
- Desus 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.

- **D** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Becky Robbins-Penniman

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

- D Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.
- L Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

Li Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, especially to Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Barry and Michael, our Assisting Bishops; Becky, our Rector; Cindy, our Deacon; Ann, our Priest Associate; to our companion diocese of the Dominican Republic; to these Episcopal Churches in our Diocese: St. Bede's, St. Petersburg; St. George's, Bradenton; and Church of the Holy Spirit, Osprey; and to all priests, deacons, and the laity in their ministry; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

L And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially President Trump, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. We pray that all God's children, especially those in the Middle East, might live in the hope of the world peace for which we are created. Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

L And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [read handwritten names from notebook] and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those listed in the weekly news who have asked for our prayers. I now invite you to pray for others by name, aloud or in your hearts. [Leave time...] Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. We give thanks for the flowers given this Memorial Day by Joe Hall in memory of those who gave everything. We give thanks for all the blessings of this life. Risen Lord,

we pray to you.

- Lespecially... add names from notebook]. Please add names of those on your heart, silently or aloud. [Leave time...] We beseech thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Risen Lord,
- we pray to you.
- Continuous Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
- Amen.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

D Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Bring your tithes, gifts and offerings with a gladsome heart.

THE OFFERTORY At the River A. Copland

THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

- D As we receive these gifts, we acknowledge:
- All things come from thee, O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer II

- P The Lord be with you.
- And with thy spirit.
- Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
- It is meet and right so to do.
- It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly 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. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,
- Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

 Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

 Hosanna in the highest.

- P All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.
- P For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."
- Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.
- And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;
- P By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.
- @ AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,
- 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.
- 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 PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Let us pray.
- Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

- Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve our Risen Lord!
- Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE How Firm a Foundation H Held

SERVING US TODAY

Celebrant Becky Robbins-Penniman

Deacon Cindy Roehl
Priest Associate Ann Chaplin
Organist Robert Moncrief

Lector Michelle Schombs

Prayers of the People Michelle Schombs