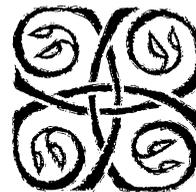


# ASCENSION DAY *(transferred)*

Sunday 16 May 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL



## GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Minuet (from *Berenice*)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

WELCOME

*During this time of pandemic, when we are physically together, you are invited to hum the melody of the hymns and psalm. Out of a spirit of care and safety, please do not sing.*

HYMN (Sts. 1, 3, 5)

“Hail Thee, Festival Day”

SALVE FESTA DIES



Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for



ev - er, day when the Christ a - scends, high in the



hea - vens to reign. reign.



1 He who was nailed to the cross is Lord and the  
3 God the Cre - a - tor, the Lord who rul - est the  
5 Spi - rit of life and of power, now flow in us,



ru - ler of na - ture; all things cre -  
earth and the hea - vens, guard us from  
fount of our be - ing, light that dost



a - ted on earth sing to the glo - ry of God:  
harm with - out, cleanse us from e - vil with - in:  
light - en - all, life that in all dost a - bide:

## THE ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

**I**n the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as

you saw him go into heaven.”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

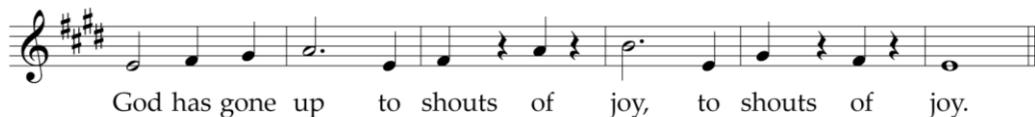
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection is kept.*

## THE PSALM

Psalm 47

### Response



All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. *Response*

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. *Response*

God is king of all the earth, sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations; God reigns enthroned in holiness. *Response*

## THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection is kept.*

*The people stand, as able, for the Sequence Hymn.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN** (Sts. 1, 3, 5) "The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns" St. MAGNUS

1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;  
2 The high - est place that heaven af - fords is his, is his by right,  
3 the joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low,  
4 To them the cross with all its shame, with all its grace is given;  
5 They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, they reign with him a - bove,

1 a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.  
2 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's e - ter - nal Light;  
3 to whom he man - i - fests his love and grants his Name to know.  
4 their name, an ev - er - last - ing name; their joy, the joy of heaven.  
5 their prof - it and their joy to know the mys - tery of his love.

**THE GOSPEL**

Luke 24:44-53

*Preacher*      The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*        **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Preacher*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*         **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## REFLECTION

Christian Pierce

*You are invited to view a reflection for children at 10:30 AM or thereafter, offered by Megan Mannor.*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people kneel or stand for the Prayers.*

*Reader* Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those in authority the spirit of your love, so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources, and all people flourish and live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world. Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ. We remember saints in our lives and in our community. Thank you for their gifts among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Presider* In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider* It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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,  
we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and  
Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever  
sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*All* **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.**

*Presider* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us  
for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject  
to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ,  
your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature,  
to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you,  
the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself,  
in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.  
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,  
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*Presider*      We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

*All*           **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**

*The bread is broken. Silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **The Invitation**

*From a sermon by St. Augustine*

*Presider* Behold what you are;

*People* **May we become what we receive.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

## SENT FORTH TO THE WORLD

### THE DISMISSAL

*The preacher offers a dismissal, the people respond*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

## **How do we deal with difficult Bible passages when we encounter them?**

How do we deal with passages which historically have been used by others to vilify groups of people—passages that may seem to condone exclusion or condemnation of groups we may perceive as “other than us”? Everyone looks at scripture through a lens of some kind—a lens which will subsequently help shape the way they approach a given passage and ultimately interpret it.

We use the Baptismal Covenant as our lens, specifically “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to strive for justice and peace among all people.” (See the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304.) Through the Covenant, we understand how we are called to follow Christ and approach the difficult biblical passages with this knowledge in mind.

## **Why use incense in worship?**

Incense has a long history in Christianity, Judaism and other religions. It adds our noses to the multi-sensory experience of worship. The psalmist expresses the symbolism of incense and prayer: “Let my prayer rise like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification. The sweet smell suggests Christ's righteousness that covers sin. In some traditions, incense is used to honor holy things and holy people (the gathered people, that is, the body of Christ). The altar/table, the bread and wine, the ministers and the assembly may be “censed” as a way of showing their importance in the liturgy. Incense adds a festive accompaniment to processions, creating “holy clouds” and “holy smells” in the air.

The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers, stained glass, or a room/building can lead us to ponder the mystery of God's presence. Incense in worship is an ancient practice that connects us to the Church around the world and through the ages.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

“Hail Thee, Festival Day!” Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (530-609). Tune: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), © Oxford University Press. Psalm 47, setting by Michael Guimont (b. 1950), © 1998, 2002, GIA Publications, Inc. “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns,” Text: Thomas Kelly (1769-1855). Tune: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke (1669-1707). “Lord, You Give the Great Commission,” Text: Jeffery Rowthorn (b. 1934), © 1978, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: ABBOT’S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1991), © 1942, ren. 1970, Hope Publishing Co. Scripture texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Music reprinted under OneLicense.net, license # A-720489.

*A poem for Ascension Day...*

An excerpt from *The Spiritual Canticle*

Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591)

Why, since You wounded

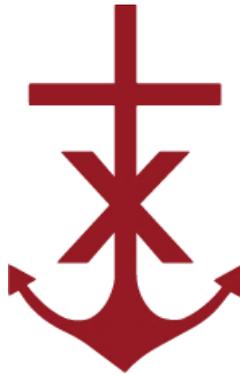
This heart, don't You heal it?

And why, since You stole it from me,

Do You leave it so,

And fail to carry off what You have stolen?

*Welcome to the transformative power  
of Christ's love;  
if you're here, you belong!*



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