

# **The Feast of the Ascension**

## **Morning Prayer Rite II**

May 16, 2021

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Hymn: He is King of Kings**

**Sung by all**

### **Opening Sentence**

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Presider* Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Invitatory & Psalter**

*Presider* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*All* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven: Come let us adore him.  
Alleluia.

**Canticle 13 Glory to you**

**sung by Andy Danh and Motomi Tanaka**

### **Psalm 98**

**Read by Morgan McGuire**

Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.  
For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.  
He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.  
He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.  
God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is King of all the earth; \*

sing praises with all your skill.  
God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.  
The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

*All*                    **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**Read by Glenn Jussen**

In 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."

The word of the Lord.

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

**Alleluia, Raise the Gospel**

**sung by the Choir**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

**Read by Deacon John Musco**

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.

The word of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Sarah Kooperkamp**

**O Lord Most High Eternal King**

**sung by the choir**

**The Apostles Creed**

**said in unison**

**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 Offertory**

*We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:*

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website>

**Doxology**

**Sung by all**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Presider* And now as our Savior Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264**

**Sung by all**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**led by Laura Tyszka**

You are free, Lord,  
your Ascension has set you free:  
free from the constraints of human existence,  
outside the limitations of time and space;  
free to be here with us now,  
in our worship and fellowship;  
and free to be with us always;  
for in your freedom  
you have bound yourself to us with a promise:  
**"Lo! I am with you always  
even to the very end of time."**

We pray, Lord, for those  
who need to feel you close,  
who need the assurance of your love,  
the encouragement of your Spirit. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are persecuted,  
who are discriminated against, because of their faith or race or economic status. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are imprisoned,  
who are tortured,  
who are exiled,  
because they have fought, struggled and spoken out  
for the rights of their people. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are destitute,  
who are hungry,  
who are refugees,

because of the selfishness and apathy of the world. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are filled with guilt and shame,  
who are broken-hearted,  
who are perplexed,  
because a relationship has gone wrong. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are feeling fed up,  
who are in discomfort,  
who are afraid,  
because they are ill in body, mind or spirit. *[Pause]*

We pray for those who are numbed,  
who are angry,  
who are desolate,  
because they have been bereaved. *[Pause]*

We pray for those caught up in war,  
and violence,  
and hatred;  
especially the innocent victims of these evils. *[Pause]*

We pray at this time of financial turmoil,  
for those who have lost jobs,  
those who struggle to pay bills,  
and those who have the power to affect positive change. *[Pause]*

Be with us all, Lord:  
in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you.  
Be with us all, Lord:  
in our periods of doubt and despair;  
and in our times of happiness, health and loving.  
Be with us all, Lord:  
until that time  
when in your in your Kingdom of Love  
our joy will know no end:

Dear people of God, for whom and for what do you pray for?

**Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*All*              **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.*

### **Closing Prayer**

**led by Alice Avouris**

Friends, please join me in our closing prayer:

Jesus,

Your Ascension into heaven

marks the culmination of the Paschal Mystery,

and it contains an important teaching for us.

May we live life as an earthly reality

and develop our human potential to the fullest.

May we make use of the results of science

to achieve a better life on this planet.

In our best moments we believe and trust that there must be more than all of this, a transcending reality.

As Christians, we know that this reality

is your loving Creator

Who awaits us with You and the Holy Spirit.

Where You have gone, we ultimately will go Amen.

### **The Benediction**

*Presider*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: Alleluia Sing to Jesus**

**Sung by all**

### **Dismissal**

*Deacon*

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Risen Christ. Alleluia!

*All*

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### **Parting Hymn**

May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless you and keep you forever

Bind your heart to his heard, with a bond that nothing can sever  
Give you light on the uphill road, and courage in every endeavor  
May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless you and keep you forever.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **Documentary Screening**

*Stranger/Sister: Hate Can't Stop A Sisterhood*

Thursday, May 20th 7-8:15pm on Zoom

### **Pentecost Sunday**

Sunday, May 23rd

We will welcome the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-founder of the Poor People's Campaign, as our guest preacher.