



The Ascension of Our Lord

Christ Lutheran, Sharon

Grace Lutheran, Franklin

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Hermitage

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Greenville

May 21, 2020

7:00 p.m.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAY: In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Gathering

Prelude Selections from Partita on *Lasst Uns Erfreuen* (Callahan)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for
the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and
aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin
and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
 into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears
 and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
 forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Apostolic Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts:

Luke writes:

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 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. 4 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; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not

for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 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.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

(The Psalm will be spoken in unison.)

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.**
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**
- 3 who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;**
- 4 who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.**
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**
- 7 For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.**
- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered
as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.**

A reading from Ephesians:

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 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, 18 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, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 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, 21 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. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel)

44 Then he 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 of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 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, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 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.”

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
 sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. **Sung response.**

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;" and "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace."

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community, especially Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hermitage, Grace Lutheran Church in Franklin, Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, the campus ministry of Thiel College, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Greenville. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors Gary, Judy, Dennis, Brenda, Brian and John; and the musicians, council members and teachers serving our congregations. **Sung response.**

Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home. We pray for our farmers in these season when new life comes from the earth. **Sung response.**

Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression and violence rule no more. Guide us and lead us so that together with all your people, we can find ways to slow, fight and cure the virus that is attacking your children. **Sung response.**

Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day. **Sung response.**

Infinite God, your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed, especially those from our congregations who have recently died: Jan, Charlie, Geraldine, Alice, Robert, John, John and Bertha. **Sung response.**

Are there others for whom we should pray?

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements

Our Prayer for These Times

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot
see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chorale Prelude on *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen*

(Walther)

Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Pastor Judy Lamb, Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin
Pastor Gary Nelson, Holy Trinity Hermitage
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris, retired, Mercyhurst University
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

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The Day of Pentecost (Greek: "The Fiftieth Day."), May 31

On Sunday, May 31, at 9:30 a.m. we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost with an online service. Pentecost is a principal festival of the church year, celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples fifty days after Easter (Acts 2:1-4). Pentecost is the final day of the Easter season. This festival commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism of 3,000 converts.

Please Pray For

Only first names are being used for privacy.

Please note that permission is needed to add anyone to the prayer list.

Health and Healing:

Belle
Dan
Dillon
Jan
Jennifer
Jim
Joe
Judy
Kate
Ken
Patty
Paul
Rick
Ron

**Christ's comfort for those
who grieve the death of:**

Barb
Charlie
Jan



In Military Service

Chief Master Sergeant Thomas R McQuiston, US Air Force, Middle East
Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces