

The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension of our Lord
May 16, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC

Preservice Music/Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

Easter Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!** (*Repeat 3 times*)

Gathering Hymn #393 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”, v. 3 – **piano only**

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful followers see their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 *To whom the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia! Alleluia!*
"This is the Savior!" thus they say, "this is his glorious triumph day!" Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy and Eternal One, **your blessed Son, our Saviour 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

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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.

⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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 you saw him go into heaven."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47

¹**Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.**
²**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great sovereign over all the earth.**
³**the LORD subdued the peoples under us,
and put nations under our feet.**
⁴**God chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

⁵**God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**
⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises.**
⁷**For God is the Ruler of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.**
⁸**God is Ruler over the nations;
God sits on the holy throne.**
⁹**The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.**
**For the shields of the earth belong to God;
and the LORD is highly exalted.**

Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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 God, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of God's great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And God has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #392 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”, v. 3 – piano only

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?
- 3 *Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.*
- 4 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53 *(From "The Message")* *Glory to you, O Lord*

⁴⁴Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁹He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it.

You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹He then led them out of the city over to Bethany. Raising his hands he blessed them, and while blessing them, made his exit, being carried up to heaven.⁵²⁻⁵³ And they were on their knees, worshipping him. They returned to Jerusalem bursting with joy. They spent all their time in the Temple praising God. Yes.

The good news of our Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #483 "Here is Bread"

1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Refrain

*In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.*

2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus, here. *Refrain.*
3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. *Refrain.*

A Celtic Affirmation of Faith

Joining with our mothers and fathers in the faith,
we affirm the presence of God with us:

**God with me lying down,
God with me rising up,
God with me in each ray of light,
Nor a ray of joy without Him,
Nor one ray without Him.**

**Christ with me sleeping,
Christ with me waking,
Christ with me watching,
Every day and night,
Each day and night.**

**God with me protecting,
The Lord with me directing,
The Spirit with me strengthening,
For ever and for evermore,
Ever and evermore, Amen.
Chief of chiefs, Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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, especially our rivers, creeks, and watersheds. 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 from our community gardens, our food banks and our market stalls, so that all people might 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, *especially Ed and Gwen, Erika and her caregiver, Rikki; Bud and Brenda who mourn the loss of Nancy, a daughter and sister; Al and Linda, Marlene and Merv, Steinar and Nicholas, Tory and Pam, Dorothy and Ingrid, Sharon and Phil, Donna, Pat and Kate, Carol and Marianne. . . and those known to us whose names we speak now in the silence of our hearts or aloud with our lips. . .* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In spite of our separation because of the virus, you have gathered us together in this community of faith, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us to love one another, to be reconciled where we are divided, and to share the riches of your grace with our neighbours whomever and wherever they might be. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 family or parish circles, especially Nancy and Karsten. Thank you for their gifts among us and their presence with us in the presence of our ascended and sovereign Saviour . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

Sharing of the Peace and Offertory (*A musical reflection is played while the table is set*)

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

Risen One, **as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. **And God is also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest.

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 praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Gifts Meant for All Given to all by the God of All

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church cry, Amen. **Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (*spoken*) *From the Anglican Church in New Zealand*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction (*Breaking of the bread*)

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to Communion

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, reigning in heaven and present on earth,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

The feast of gladness is shared while a musical reflection is played

Prayer after Communion

**Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness
and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love
into the wounded world, in the name of our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

The blessing of the living God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn #548 “Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”, v. 3 – piano only
Tune: “Praise, My Soul” #864

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;
 may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 Alleluia, alleluia; God, the wonder of our days.

- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;
 broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.
 Alleluia, alleluia; Christ, our present, past, and goal.

- 3 *Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;
 present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.
 Alleluia, alleluia; Spirit, grace by whom we live.*

- 4 Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;
 mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.
 Alleluia, alleluia. Rise, O church, a living faith.

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
 You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
 Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude