

Sunday, May 28, 2017
Ascension of Our Lord

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel 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; 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.

PRELUDE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Michael Burkhardt

***GATHERING SONG**

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

ELW 393

**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!**

**The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful foll'wers see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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!**

**"You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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!

***GREETING**

℟ *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**

℟ *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!**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] 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 as you saw him go into heaven.”

Reflection

What is “the first book”? (verse 1—see Luke 1:3) Acts 1:2-5 is a summary of the contents of the first book. What were Jesus’ instructions to his disciples from the first book? (verses 4-5) What did the disciples expect to happen now? (verse 6) How does Jesus answer their question? (verse 7—in other words, “wrong question!”) How does Jesus redirect their attention? (verse 8) How is what is to happen different from what they expected to happen? Who are the actors in Jesus’ new plan? What happens then to Jesus? (verse 9) What happens then to the disciples? (verses 10-11) What would have happened to Jesus’ plan if they had stood around waiting for him to return “in the same way”? What

happens to Jesus' plan for us as his disciples today if we simply wait for him to return? What do you think Jesus wants us to do in the meantime?

PSALM 93

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established; you are from | everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice; the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea, mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are | very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore.

Reflection

How does the psalmist describe the Lord in this psalm? (verses 1-2) What has the Lord done? How does the world celebrate the Lord? (verses 3-4) What does the psalmist say about the Lord and the Lord's work? (verse 4) How does this psalm describe Jesus?

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we would be given the wisdom to comprehend this and display it through love toward others.

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 him, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, 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 he 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.

Reflection

Ephesians is one of my favorite letters in the Bible. The reason for that is that it reminds me that the world that I see around me, and indeed the church that I see around me is greater than I can see. How does the writer of Ephesians describe those who read this letter? (verse 15) How does the writer lift them up? (verse 16) For what specifically does he pray for them? (verses 17-19) How does the writer describe the work of Christ in God? (verses 20-23) It comes around again to the church, in verses 22-23.

This is the world and the church that God sees! How is God's vision different from your vision? Who do you think sees the whole truth of the world and the church? I must confess that when I look at the world, I see sin (both sins and the systemic sin that we are caught in, such as racism, sexism, etc. and fear, hatred, and violence). How has the resurrection and ascension of Jesus changed all that? (verses 22-23)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 172

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

***GOSPEL**

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

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

Reflection

What message did Jesus leave with the disciples? (verses 44-47) What task does Jesus leave with the disciples? (verses 47-48) How will they be able to do this task? (verse 49) Verses 50-52 is the lead-in to the second book. Who are we in this scene? What is our task now? How are we able to do this? How have we been clothed with power from on high?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Misty Coyle

DISCOVERY TALK

Misty Coyle

SERMON

Rev. Trish Decker

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Heal Our Land"

**Forgive, Oh Lord,
And heal our land,
And give us eyes to seek Your face
And hearts to understand
That You alone
Make all things new**

**And the blessings of the land we love
Are really gifts from You.**

**If My people will humbly pray
And seek My face and turn away
From all their wicked ways,
Then I will hear them
And move My hand;
And freely then will I forgive,
And I will heal their land.**

**Unite our hearts
In one accord,
And make us hungry for Your peace
And burdened for the poor;
And grant us hope
That we might see
The future for the land we love,
Our life, our liberty.**

**If My people will humbly pray
And seek My face and turn away
From all their wicked ways,
Then I will hear them
And move My hand;
And freely then will I forgive,
And I will heal their land.**

**If My people will humbly pray
And seek My face and turn away
From all their wicked ways,
Then I will hear them
And move My hand;
And freely then will I forgive,
And I will heal their land.
And I will heal their land
Heal their land**

HOLY BAPTISM

Matthew James Douglas

pg. 227

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Ⓟ *Do you believe in God the Father?*

Ⓞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*

Q **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P *Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*

Q **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.**

.....

P *Let us welcome the newly baptized.*

Q **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we
share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's
creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

***PRAYER SONG "Cares Chorus"**

**I cast all my cares upon You
I lay all of my burdens
Down at Your feet
And anytime that I don't know
What to do
I will cast all my cares upon You**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Clothe us with your power. Uphold all preachers and teachers of the gospel. Unite us through the Spirit and lead us out in mission. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. For hills and valleys, prairies and pastures. For deserts and mountains, tundra and bogs. Nurture all plants and animals, and sustain those whose labor produces our food. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Guide all local, national, and international leaders. Build up safe communities. Bring an end to violence in families as well as between nations. Liberate those who live under oppression. Strengthen those who work for equality. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who travel. For those who are abused or neglected. For all refugees and immigrants. For students approaching a graduation. For those who are ill *especially Bill, Ron, Doris, Willard, Cody, Terry, Chester, Peggy Ann, Owen, Gerald, Samantha, Bob, Sheylin, Terry, Stephanie, Linda, Scott, Alva*. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless those who are preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Strengthen our ministries of education and outreach. Uphold those who lead us in prayer and song. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Inspire us by their witness and bring us to receive our inheritance with all the saints in your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Thine the Amen"

ELW 826

vv. 1, 4, 5

**Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup**

is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

As the grains of wheat
once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one
to become our bread;
so may all your people
from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

G **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n 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,
hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

G **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. Hallelujah!*

***BLESSING**

℟ *The body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

☩ **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

℟ *Life-giving God,*

☩ **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

℟ *May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.*

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

☩ **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"Let God Arise"

**Let God arise
Let His enemies be scattered
Let God arise
Let His enemies be scattered
Let God arise
Let His enemies be scattered
Let God let God arise**

***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.*

☩ **Thanks be to God!**