

Ascension Day 2020

The Holy Eucharist

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome

The presiding celebrant greets the community

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Celebrant May his grace and peace be with you.
People **May he fill our hearts with joy.**
People **And also with you.**

The following prayer may be said.

Celebrant Almighty God,
All to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

Holy God,
send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom,
so that, in the blessed freedom of hope,
we may witness to the grace of forgiveness
and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**
Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings



Acts 1.1-11

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 over the course of 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.**

Reader A reading of Psalm 47

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.

Blessed are you, God of all the earth; you have called us out of every people and nation to be a royal priesthood and citizens of your holy city. May our words of praise call the world to turn to the joy of fellowship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Luke 24.44-53

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.’ 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,
The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon -

A silence for reflection may follow.

The Nicene Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All **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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.**

The Prayers of the People – prepared by *Deacon Heather MacEachern*

With joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life saying, **“Hear us , Lord of glory !”**

That our risen Saviour will fill us with the great gift of Easter- HOPE. The hope which gives us that confidence in God, in his goodness and love .Who overcame death and opened the gate of

everlasting life: grant that we, who celebrate with joy and hope the day of your resurrection ,may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving spirit. Let us pray.

Hear us ,Lord of glory!

The world is in need of HOPE , and we pray for all of creation. Jesus taught us the way of love. Let us lovingly embrace the way; caring and loving all those, including ourselves, who require comfort, HOPE and joy. In these trying times let us reach out ,in new ways, to the lonely, the homeless, the hungry, the frightened, and all those who are in any way stressed. Let us pray.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Loving Lord, hear our prayer for all nations and all people of the world. Hear our prayers of support for health care workers, for truck drivers, for store clerks, for all those putting themselves at risk for the good of others. For our clergy who are bringing us HOPE via new ways of communication, may you continue to speak to us through them. Let us pray.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Loving Lord, watch over all who are affected by COVID-19, whether in body, mind or spirit ,especially those who are alone without family by their side. Reveal your light of your presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, remembering today; **Pat and family, Dennis, Martha, Tim, Shelley, Leeland, Joan, Marion, Keegan, Susan, Suzanne, Nadine, Pam, Dawn-Marie, Lara, Freya, Mary, Barry, Nicole, Alex, Cathy, Joanne, Paula, Beryl, Jack, David, Bruce, Chris, Gordon, Brian, Geraldine _____** that they may be comforted and strengthened with love and HOPE. Let us pray.

Hear us , Lord of glory!

As we celebrate Christ's victory over death itself, we give thanks for those who have gone before us; those we hold in our hearts and minds, today remembering especially _____, rejoicing in the promise of eternal life. Let us pray.

Hear us , Lord of glory!

Lord, as we gather via technology, may the HOPE of your resurrection colour our days. May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the love and HOPE you revealed to us reflect in our giving. May the truth of your word guide our lives and may the joy and HOPE of your sacrifice fill our homes as we celebrate your glorious resurrection. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear us , Lord of glory!

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
**All we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Prayer over the Gifts

*When the gifts have been prepared,
the celebrant may say the Prayer over the Gifts*

Eternal God,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
has promised to be with us until the end of time.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and renew us in his transfigured life;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who after his glorious resurrection
appeared to his disciples,
and in their sight ascended into heaven
to prepare a place for us;
that where he is, there we might also be,
and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you 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.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
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, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death,**
 we proclaim his resurrection,
 we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution

Celebrant Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,

The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion *

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you in the sacrament of your Body and Blood,

at least come spiritually into my heart.

Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus
and let me never be separated from you.

May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen**

**Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) used at the 2020 Easter celebration at
The Episcopal Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (Washington National Cathedral)*

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant

Eternal Giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom.

Confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then the following doxology may be said.

Celebrant

Glory to God,

**All whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Dismissal