

# Ascension of the Lord

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

*"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."*

Luke 24:50-51

## BCP Service of the Word

Let us pray. [BCP p 622](#)

**Lord, teach us to pray.**

**Lord, keep our thoughts from wandering.**

**Lord, cleanse our hearts that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him. [Ps 96:9](#)

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found,  
call ye upon him while he is near. [Isaiah 55:6](#)

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**O Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned greatly against thee in thought, and word, and deed, and have done that which is wrong in thy sight. Forgive us our sins, and give us grace always to resist temptation and to do thy holy will; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our Sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord, open thou our lips;

**And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen**

Praise ye the Lord;

**The Lord's name be praised.**

### **1st Reading: 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 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."*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 93

- 1 THE LORD is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: / **the LORD hath put on his apparel,** and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He hath made the round world so sure, / **that it cannot be moved.**
- 3 Ever since the world began hath thy throne been established: / **thou art from everlasting.**
- 4 THE floods have lift up, O LORD, the floods have lift up their voice: / **the floods lift up their waves.**
- 5 Mightier than the roar of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, / **the LORD, who dwelleth on high, is mighty.**
- 6 Thy testimonies, O LORD, are very sure: / **holiness becometh thine house for ever.**

## 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

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

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**Gospel: 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 worshiped him, and returned to  
Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Please join me in reciting the Apostles' Creed. [BCP p 624](#)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church;  
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen**

The Lord be with you;

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen**

Collect of the day

Let us pray.

**God unheld by word or wall:  
lift us from dullness and cynical contempt;  
make us ready for your Spirit of transforming power;  
and turn our hearts to the mending of the world,  
through Jesus Christ, the name above all names. Amen.**

O Lord God, who hast bidden light to shine out of darkness, and who hast again wakened us to praise thee for thy goodness and to ask for thy grace: Accept now the offering of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be acceptable to thy holy will. Make us to live as children of the light, and heirs of thy everlasting kingdom. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, and all in our family, wherever they may be, who stand in need of thine aid. Pour down upon us all the riches of thy grace, so that, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, we may ever praise thy wonderful and holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 729*

*please name those who are in need of prayer*

Almighty God and heavenly Father, who hast in wisdom seen fit to withhold from us at this time thine accustomed bounty; We most humbly praise thee for still bestowing upon us far more than we deserve. Make us truly thankful for our many blessings; increase in us more and more a lively faith and love, and a humble submission to thy blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 619*

O Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *BCP p 731*

*please remember to mail in your offering to the church or  
consider using the Pre-Authorized Debit system*

Let us pray.

**Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down thy heavenly blessing upon thy Church in this Parish, that all its members may dwell together in unity and love. Keep far from us all self-will and discord. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to dispense thy holy Word and Sacraments, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. Grant that we may so receive their ministrations, and use thy means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory and the advancement of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *BCP p 736***

O God, Most High and Holy Three in One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: We offer to thee this day Ourselves, our souls and bodies, To be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; To whom be all praise and glory. **Amen *BCP p 729***

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen**

**Readings for next Sunday – May 30, 2020**

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23.