

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

May 24, 2020

9:30 a.m. Choral Service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist

Vigil Light

The Vigil Light today is given to the Glory of God and for strength and healing for Betty & Ray, given by Judy Reich.

The Vigil Light is given to the Glory of God for peace and strength for Judy Reich, given by Chris.

Prelude: *"He is Exalted" -Paris, setting by Hayes*

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional hymn #214

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! Glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia! Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia! Take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen! *People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Collect for Purity

Gloria: S-236 Glory to you, Lord

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Collect *(said by all)*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book of Acts

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."

Acts 1:1-11

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

Silence

PSALM 47 *said by all, in unison* **BCP p. 650**

**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.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Verse

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia

Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People** **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

Christ was baptized as one of us, but he destroyed sins as God. *He was tempted as a human, but he conquered as God. He wants us to rejoice, for he has overcome the world.*

He hungered, but he fed thousands. He is the living bread that comes down from heaven. *He thirsted, but he cried, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink." He promised that fountains would flow from those who believe.*

He was wearied, but he is the rest of those who are weary and heavy-laden. *The demons acknowledge him, but he drives them out. He plunges into the sea the legions of foul spirits and sees the prince of demons falling like lightning.*

He prays, but he hears prayer. *He weeps, but he makes tears to cease.*

He asks where Lazarus was laid because he was a human; but he raises Lazarus because he was God. *He is sold, and very cheap - for only thirty pieces of silver; but he redeems the world at a great price - the cost of his own blood.*

As sheep he is led to the slaughter, but he is the Shepherd of Israel – and now of the whole world. *He is bruised and wounded, but he heals every disease and infirmity.*

He is lifted up and nailed to the tree, but he restores us by the tree of life. *He lays down his life, but he has the power to take it up again.*

He dies, but he gives life; and by his death he destroys death. *He is buried, but he rises again.*

He descends into hell, but he raises souls from death. *He ascends to heaven, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Amen.*

Prayer for the Parish - O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Confession & Absolution

BCP, p. 360

Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.

The Peace

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn: "Now the Green Blade Rises" -Setting by Larkin

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 2

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: WLP #875 Be Known to Us

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

One body we are, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Communion

Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Post Communion Prayer

Blessing

Recessional Hymn #215

**See the Conqueror mounts in triumph; see the King in royal state, riding on the clouds,
his chariot, to his heavenly palace gate! Hark! The choirs of angel voices joyful alleluias sing,
and the portals high are lifted to receive their heavenly King.**

**He who on the cross did suffer, he who from the grave arose, he has vanquished sin and Satan;
he by death has spoiled his foes. While he lifts his hands in blessing, he is parted from his friends;
while their eager eyes behold him, he upon the clouds ascends.**

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *“Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*