

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

## **Ascension Sunday**

**May 16, 2021**

*9:30 a.m. choral service*

*The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher*

*Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist*

*Josh Spooner, Reader*

**Prelude:** *"Sing A New Song" Schutte, Setting by D Wagner 1974 New Dawn Music*

### **Processional hymn #215**

*Words: Christopher Wordsworth; Music: In Babilone*

**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**

### **Acclamation**

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

### **Collect for Purity**

### **Gloria: S-280 Glory to you, Lord**

*Setting: John Rutter*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.,**

### **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 98**      *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.**

## Alleluia Verse



## 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**

**Sermon**    *Fr. Richard Signore*

### **Prayers of the People III**

**Prayer Book, p. 387**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on earth.*  
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**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: "Song 46" Gibbons The English Hymnal 1906**

**The Great Thanksgiving B**

**Prayer Book, p. 367**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Book, p. 364**

**Fraction Anthem: WLP #876**

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.  
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.  
One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

**Communion Music:** *“Adoro Devote” French Church Melody, Mode 5*

**Prayer** *(said by those at home)* *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** *(Said by all worshiping in person)*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn #460**

*Words: William Chatterton Dix; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard*

**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 every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! He is near us, faith believe, nor questions how: though the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus out of every promise, “I am with you ever more”?**

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

**Postlude:** *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” Broughton, 2001 Lorenz Publishing Co.*

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