



The Ascension of Our Lord

May 16, 2021 + 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ on this Seventh Sunday of Easter! Today we're celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord; in today's readings 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 are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); 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.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

ENTRANCE HYMN: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

ELW 393

See page 14 for the music.

*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!***

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

We gather today just as God has gathered us into His family in our Baptism:
in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known; from You no secrets are hid.
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 Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth's not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who's faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
So let's confess our sin against God and one another:

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

***we confess that we're in bondage to sin and can't free ourselves.
We've sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we've done and by what we've left undone.
We haven't loved You with our whole heart;
we haven't loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will
and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.***

Listen to the Good News, brothers and sisters:

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for His sake, + God forgives you all your sins!

To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God
and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast of Victory!" >

See page 15-16 of this bulletin for the tune.

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God!

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength and honor, blessing, and glory are His!

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever! Amen!

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His Reign! Alleluia!

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

EASTER GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

And so the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the + love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: Almighty God,

Your dear Son ascended far above the heavens that He might fill all things.

Give us faith to trust that, true to His promise,

He abides with us on earth till the end of time;

for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD AND PRAYER

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

Pr Dave will introduce this song to us;

then we'll sing it together once or twice to let the tune (and the promise) sink in...

Behold, behold—I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, behold—I make all things new; My promise is true, for I am Christ the Way!

FIRST READING:**Ephesians 1.15-23**

NLT

The apostle writes: ¹⁵ Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, ¹⁶ I haven't stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He's given to those He called— His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.

¹⁹ I also pray that you'll understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now He's far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else— not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is His body; it's made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL:**Acts 1.1-14**

NLT

See page 17 of this bulletin for the music to this section.

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to the Acts of the Apostles, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

Luke writes: In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day He was taken up to heaven after giving His chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after He suffered and died, He appeared to the apostles from time to time, and He proved to them in many ways that He was actually alive. And He talked to them about the Kingdom of God. ⁴ Once when He was eating with them, He commanded them, "Don't leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you'll be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, "Lord, has the time come for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" ⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they're not for you to know. ⁸ But you'll receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you'll be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere— in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the

earth.” ⁹After saying this, He was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see Him.

¹⁰As they strained to see Him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He’ll return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!”

¹²Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

ELW 631

See page 18 of this bulletin for the music.

*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 ev’ry nation has redeemed us by His blood.”*

*Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him when the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?*

*Alleluia! Bread of heav’n, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.*

*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 ev'ry nation has redeemed us by His blood."*

NICENE CREED:

*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 and the Son.
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.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit,
let's bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love:

Good and gracious God, we praise You for Your Son Jesus, whom You carried up into heaven and seated at Your right hand so that even beyond our sight He might be everywhere present, not only in this age but also in the age to come. Enliven Your church to live authentically as the body of Christ alive in the world; guide our bishops and pastors to lead with visionary wisdom; and make all Your baptized people active witnesses to Your mercy and might.

We rejoice that in the Ascension of Your Son, You once again invite us to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ. Preserve our teachers in their care of our youth; support scientists in their exploration of Your creation; and empower our theologians to assist us in receiving the mysteries of the Ascension, that each new morning we behold may abound in wonder, love, and praise.

We thank You for the springtime greening of the good earth around us, and for the promise of rich harvests that drives and sustains our planting. Preserve Your good creation from disastrous climate; safeguard animals and their young, and protect trees and bushes around us, that all may enjoy their fruit and beauty.

We acclaim You as sovereign over the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Bring an end to wars between nations and violence in every community and every heart; stir up Your Spirit among us, that that the leaders of nations may enact Your justice among their people; and grant Your wisdom and vision to our legislators for the difficult decisions that lie ahead, that they may govern with compassion and mercy for the most vulnerable.

We know that even though we can't see You now in a form that we'd consider glorious, You still come to meet us in our vulnerable neighbors and call us together to the bounty of Your table of grace. Let Your Holy Spirit flow through us in grace and mercy, that the poor among us may be fed and clothed and housed, the unemployed may find jobs, the grieving may be comforted, the despairing may find new hope, and those we name before You may receive Your healing and newness of life ...

Bring Your healing to those suffering from this pandemic coronavirus, especially our brothers and sisters in India. Bring Your comfort to those facing death, Your sustaining health to those returning to society, and Your endurance and perseverance to our physicians and nurses. Grant that our hospitals and care homes be equipped for their work and that future waves of illness be averted.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give You thanks for all those who've gone before us testifying to Your work in their lives. As You gather us with all the saints by the power of Your Spirit, grant that our hearts may live forever in Your keeping, and that through us future generations may proclaim and embody Your saving Good News.

For into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord is with you always. **And also with you.**

Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

See p. 19-20 for the music to this section.

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life,
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

God of love, You call us beloved children and welcome us to Your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

for the sake of Your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let's give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere
give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord,
who overcame death and the grave, and now, enthroned at the right hand of the Father,
intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place,
we praise your Name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord! Lord God of pow'r 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!***

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

And so, remembering all that our Lord has done for us, believing the witness of His resurrection, awaiting His final appearing in glory, we share this foretaste of the feast to come. Now send Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy Supper. Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when You'll make all things new. All this we pray with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who's taught us to pray:

***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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

CANTICLE: "Lamb of God"

***Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us!
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us!
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace!***

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. When giving the bread to your neighbor, say "The body of Christ, given for you." When giving the wine/grape juice say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Whatever's left over may be reverently eaten and drunk by everyone after our worship is over. Once we've all shared in the body and blood of Christ, we continue in blessing and prayer:

SENDING

THANKSGIVING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION:

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
Amen.

*Thank the Lord and sing His praise! Tell everyone what He has done!
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His Name!
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Wellspring of joy, through this meal You've put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that Your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people through Christ Jesus our risen Lord.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Now may the God of life, who raised Christ Jesus from death,
empower you by the Holy Spirit to walk in newness of life;
and Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. *Amen.*

SENDING HYMN: "Christ is Alive—Let Christians Sing!"

ELW 389

See page 21 of this bulletin for the music.

*Christ is alive— let Christians sing! The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive— no longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.*

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, serve in joy, and live out the new life of our risen Lord!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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Beginning at Jerusalem

Begin in the brightly painted kitchens.
At the table set for supper and on the wide couches
where we watch TV. Begin while we are sorting
the laundry, writing out the shopping list.
And in front of our bathroom mirrors.

Begin in the barns among the warmth of animals
and the smells of grain and manure.
Begin in the growing fields, and in the flooded
pastures, and where the rains have not come
and the soil is cracked and hard.

Begin in the gleaming office towers, the shiny
shopping malls, the sweaty factory floors.
Begin on crumbling sidewalks and amid
the rumble of subways. At machines, at our desks,
by the coffee makers and computers.

Begin with the rich, the comfortable.
Begin with the poor, the desperate.
Among the successful, the self-assured.
Among the failed and the floundering.
In the glitter of the halls of power,
and in the cold and shadowed corners
of tragedy and defeat.

Begin on a day when the sun is brilliant;
on a day when the sky is gray.
In a time when economies are favorable;
in a time when all is rust;
at the moment when leaders are caring;
or amid indifference, hostility, despair.

Let us begin beginning again. And whether
we have begun and triumphed, or begun
and struggled and faltered, we will continue
our beginning, as we have from our beginning, at Jerusalem,
which is wherever and whoever we are.

• *Andrew King*

“Goodbye, My Love. No One’s Leaving”

Once there was a man whose mother, when he was little, regularly accompanied him to nursery school. Knowing how anxious he was about seemingly being abandoned when she’d leave, the boy’s mother would lean down, kiss her son, and say, “Goodbye, my love. No one’s leaving.” Each day, his mother would bid him farewell with those same words. Too young to recognize the paradox, the boy embraced his new existence and quickly adjusted to new and frightening surroundings. Day after day, week after week, his mother bade him the same farewell: “Goodbye, my love. No one’s leaving.”

When the boy grew into adulthood, he was confronted with the reality of having to place his mother in a nursing home. She, now elderly and frail with advanced dementia, barely recognized him, often forgot to eat, and simply couldn’t take care of herself anymore. But as he left her in her new and frightening surroundings, he remembered her words. He leaned down, kissed his mother, and said, “Goodbye, my love. No one’s leaving”— words his mother recognized, even though she no longer recognized him. A tear appeared in her eye, as she clasped his hand and repeated, “Goodbye, my love. No one’s leaving.”

This is Jesus’ message to us in His Ascension: “Goodbye, My love. No one’s leaving.” He’s leaving our *sight*, certainly; and we find ourselves in the new and frightening surroundings of this life, in a place where we’re uncomfortable and often feel ill-equipped to carry on. Yet we burn the Paschal candle to indicate His closeness; we commit ourselves to seek and serve Him in all persons; we sing songs that tell of the wonders of His Incarnation; we feel His very presence in bread and wine; and we hear the story of how, as the apostles were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. As Leo the Great wrote, “Even the blessed apostles, though they’d been strengthened by so many miracles and instructed by so much teaching, took fright at the cruel suffering of the Lord’s passion and could not accept His resurrection without hesitation. Yet they made such progress through His Ascension that they now found joy in what had terrified them before...”

+ *Barrie Bates*

“Why Stand Here Looking Up at the Sky?”

The two men are right. Don’t stand looking into the skies as if Jesus has gone away. The Crucified and Risen One has ascended to the throne of God.

And where’s that? *Everywhere*, for God’s power fills all things. Jesus has ascended into the cosmos. But in this long time of sickness and death and loss, that may not be easy to see. Rather, we can see Jesus Christ in the places where He’s there for us: in the Scriptures that He opens our mind to understand; in the Spirit of wisdom that He pours out on us, enabling us to hope; and in the love of the community which is His body. As Martin Luther has said, Jesus has ascended to be *with us* and *for us*. Then we need to be with and for other people, at least in our prayer and support...

+ *Gordon Lathrop*

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
 sky?” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “This is the Sav - ior!” thus they
 sky.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, “this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty.”
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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This is the Feast of Victory!

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

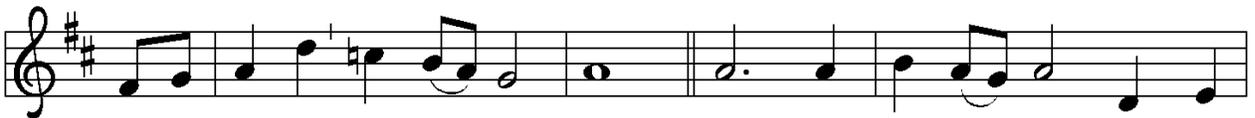


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

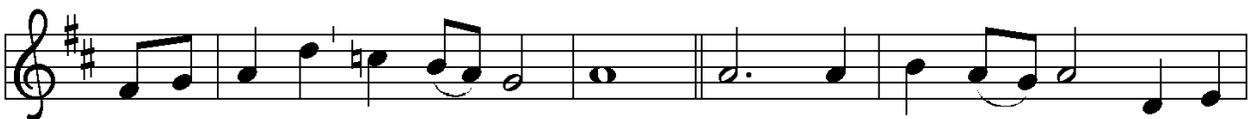


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Alleluia! [Gospel Acclamation]



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

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Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

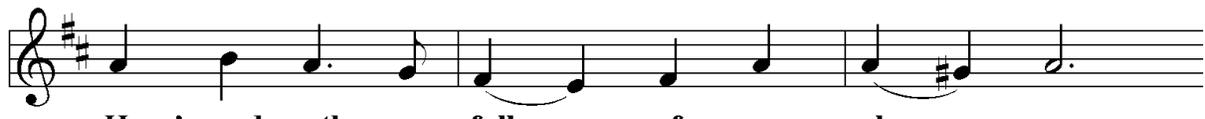


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord [Sanctus]



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lamb of God



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

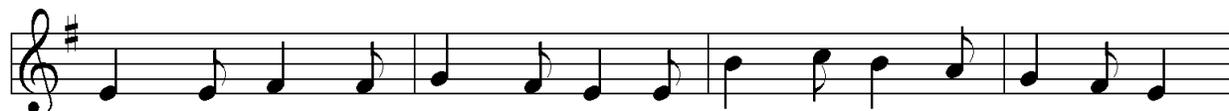
Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

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Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sun. 5/16 Ascension of Our Lord (Easter 7)	9:00 AM	Holy Communion online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]
Mon. 5/17	7:00 PM	Congregation Council via Zoom/FCC*
Tues. 5/18	5:30 PM	Worship + Music Team via Zoom/FCC*
Wed. 5/19	7:00 PM	VBS + Sunday School Planning [F]
Thur. 5/20	10:00 AM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC *
	7:00 PM	Scouts BSA Troop 007 [F]
Fri. 5/21	1:00 PM	Al-Anon [F]
	7:00 PM	AA [F]
Sun. 5/23 The Day of Pentecost	9:00 AM	Holy Communion outside and/or online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live
	10:30 AM	Fellowship Hour via Zoom: [use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]

- * If you'd like to participate in these **activities taking place over Pr Dave's Zoom platform**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

- The Armed Forces, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David Johnson Sr., Andrew Edmonds, Fay Barndt, Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, President Biden and his cabinet, Don & Karen Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Jordan Scholl, Kelsey Shaak, Bob Knapp, Ray Constable, Walter Rausch, Bob Westervelt, Carol Marks, Rosemary Bruno, Florence Zellers, Nick Wildman, Walt & Ryan, Bobby Lane, Alan & Kathy West, Connie Slotter, Doug Fay, Karen Berger, Jim, Jan Riley, Sam Sovacol, Karen Blicht, Mattie Bleam, Samantha Martin, Jeannie Rothsching, Beth, Norm Diehl Sr., Roger & Tanner Banks, Amy Miller, Erika, Linda Knowlton, Owen & Siobhan, Aly Brown, Matt Aber, Ray, Kelly, Ozzi and his parents, John Hunsberger, Emily Hassler, Bill Baringer, Russell Stier, Nancy Schnabel, Mike Ruth, Jennifer Hallman, the Peterson family, Steve and Dan Jacobs, the Hebbel family, Karen Capella, Gary & Sherry, Pamela, Karen Smoyer, Laura Nelson, Sara & her husband, Sam Smith; victims of flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires; everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment.

- Families and friends of Bill Stever, Bill Barndt Sr., Robert Webb, Karl Gross, Bill Blain, Carole Eddings, George Dutton, Jamie Wright, Eric McGovern, Pat Knowlton, Mickey Shaak, Linda Mittelberger, Pr Bill Vanderslice, Pr John Cochran, Dexter Latchmi-Persad, Gary Kratz.

This week's bulletins are given to the glory of God by Janet Hallman.

Please ***don't forget to keep on giving to our ministries here at St Paul's!*** You can now do this in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for Simply Giving, you're already taken care of; [2] You can mail your offerings to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulstowntown.org) and make your contributions online. We're running a significant deficit for the year so far— so we especially need your support right now...

Come join us this Thursday, ***May 20*** from ***10:00 AM-12:00 NN*** via Zoom or Free Conference call for our ***Thursday Morning Bible Study***. (See the previous page for information on accessing these platforms.) We're digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come join us and invite your friends as well!

Are any of your children or grandchildren ***graduating this year?*** If so, we'd like to know so we can honor them and remember them in our prayers. Please let Alicia know their names, schools, and degrees/majors by May 23 at stpaulstowntown@gmail.com or 215.536.5789 so we can recognize them.

Quakertown Food Pantry News: Our "Monthly Special" recipient for the month of May is the Quakertown Food Pantry, whose volunteers share a three-day emergency food supply with the food insecure in our community. The Pantry is back to being open five days a week: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 AM-1 PM and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 PM. We at St Paul's have a long history of volunteering and supporting the Pantry's ministries; let's keep up the good work through our giving!

Next Sunday, ***the Day of Pentecost, May 23***, weather permitting, ***we'll resume in-person worship at St Paul's with an outdoor service of Holy Communion***. We'll bring our lawn chairs, wear our facemasks, and spread out in the side yard among the trees (at least six feet between each immediate family unit, and preferably more like ten feet). We may even sing a hymn or two (masked), and we'll share in Holy Communion with each attendee picking up their own sealed bread-and-wine packet and dropping off their offering as they come in. (We may even have a Baptism that day...) We'll also be "live-streaming" this service online for folks who aren't comfortable coming out in person yet. ***If the weather doesn't allow us to worship outside, we'll stick with the worship livestream from inside the church.*** (Pr Dave will send out an email blast late Saturday afternoon or early evening and leave a message on the church's answering machine if the weather forecast for Sunday morning is questionable.) We'll continue to follow this pattern for in-person worship (either outside in person or strictly online via livestream) each week, probably through June.

It's time to think about VBS and Sunday School again! If you're interested in helping to plan, lead, or assist with these ministries, come join us this coming Wednesday evening, **May 19 @ 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall for a planning get-together. (We'll be wearing our masks and keeping safely distanced, so we should be more than safe.)

Bakers Needed: Do you like to bake? Sue Young is coordinating bakers to supply treats to help support the AA "Let Go and Let God" group meeting each Friday at St. Paul's. She's hoping to add a couple more bakers to those who already participate in this ministry. If you're interested, please contact Sue Young at 610.982.5541 or sueyoung751@gmail.com. Thank you!

For the latest updates on our announcements, go to:

docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_lL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#



For more information on our ministries, please contact:

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