

Morning Prayer for Feast of the Ascension (7th Sunday of Easter), May 24, 2020, at 10 am

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen. BCP p. 77

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Officiant On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (*Psalm 118:24*)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (*Colossians 3:1*)

THE INVITATORY BCP p. 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN 214 Hail the day that sees him rise *Please stay on mute and sing*
Samantha Ferrara, accompaniment recorded by David Dockery

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| 1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, a-while to mortals given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia! | 2. There the glories triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia! |
| 3. See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia! | 4. Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia! |

PSALM 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite* BCP p. 650

Read responsively by the half-verse, breaking at the asterisk

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

A Thanksgiving for Heroic Service

BCP p. 839

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Peace Among the Nations

BCP p. 816

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 13: A Song of Praise *Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34* BCP p. 90 (Hymnal S 236)

Samantha Ferrara, accompaniment recorded by David Dockery

*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.
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.*

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

Lector A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 18: A Song to the Lamb (*Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*) BCP pp. 93-94

Read by half verse, breaking at the asterisk.

Splendor and honor and kingly power *

are yours by right, O Lord our God,

For you created everything that is, *

and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation, *

a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *

and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *

for ever and for evermore.

PIANO PIECE

David Dockery

THIRD READING: Luke 24:44-53

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

THE GREAT "I AM" STATEMENTS *from the Gospel of John* Celtic Worship Through the Year p. 5

Leader Jesus said: I am the light of the world.

People **Your light drives out the darkness.**

Leader I am the way, the truth, and the life.

People **Your way has brought true hope.**

Leader I am the resurrection and the life.

People **You broke the power of death.**

Leader I am the bread of life.
People **You feed and fill the hungry.**
Leader I am the true vine.
People **Your life becomes our life.**
Leader I am the good shepherd.
People **You guide and lead us on.**
Leader Let us recollect the presence of the Risen Christ with us now. *Silence.*

THE PRAYERS

BCP, p. 97

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.** *Officiant* Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES A

BCP, pp. 97-98

Versicle Show us your mercy, O Lord;
Response **And grant us your salvation.**
Versicle Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Response **Let your people sing with joy.**
Versicle Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
Response **For only in you can we live in safety.**
Versicle Lord, keep this nation under your care;
Response **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
Versicle Let your way be known upon earth;
Response **Your saving health among all nations.**
Versicle Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Response **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Versicle Create in us clean hearts, O God;
Response **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

HYMN 494

Crown him with many crowns *Please stay on mute and sing*
Samantha Ferrara, accompaniment recorded by David Dockery

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| <p>1. Crown him with many crowns,
 the Lamb upon his throne;
 Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
 all music but its own;
 awake, my soul, and sing
 of him who died for thee,
 and hail him as thy matchless King
 through all eternity.</p> <p>3. Crown him the Lord of life,
 who triumphed o'er the grave,
 and rose victorious in the strife
 for those he came to save;
 his glories now we sing
 we died, and rose on high,
 who died, eternal life to bring,
 and lives that death might die.</p> | <p>2. Crown him the Son of God
 before the worlds began,
 and ye, who tread where he hath trod,
 crown him the Son of man;
 who every grief hath known
 that wrings the human breast,
 and takes and bears them for his own,
 that all in him by rest.</p> <p>4. Crown him of lords the Lord,
 who over all doth reign,
 who one on earth, the incarnate Word,
 for ransomed sinners slain,
 now lives in realms of light,
 where saints with angels sing
 their sons before him day and night,
 their God, Redeemer, King. <i>(Last stanza on p. 5)</i></p> |
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5. Crown him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in world above;
crown him the King, to whom is given,
the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns,
as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,
for he is King of all.

The Collect of the Day

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

A Collect for Peace

BCP p. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

BCP p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

PRAYER LIST *followed by intercessions and thanksgivings from the congregation*

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

BCP p. 833

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

BCP, p. 102

Seminarian Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Officiant May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and also of earth, lift up your hearts, lift up your lives to God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**