

Sunday, May 24, 2020 - The Ascension of Our Lord

Entrance Hymn, #425 Joyful, Joyful

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2 All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

3 Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

Your son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

That he might rule over all things as Lord.

Keep the church in the unity of the Spirit

And in the bond of his peace,

And bring the whole of creation

To worship at his feet,

Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: A Reading from Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ While staying^[a] 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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."

Psalms 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us,

and nations under our feet.

**He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^[a]

**God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.**

The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.

**For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.**

**Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word, and to the Spirit, indwelling:
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you:

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

I believe in God,
Creator of the universe
Dwelling forever in time and space.
I believe in Jesus Christ
Who came to live amongst us
And let us see what God is like.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Sent by God through Jesus
To be our guide and comforter.
Therefore I believe in love
In hope and compassion, joy and faith
Forgiveness and eternal life.

(Frances Sommerville, New Woman's Creed)

Prayers of the People

In the power of the risen Lord who intercedes on our behalf, let us pray saying: Lord, have mercy. As we are all navigating these extraordinary times, we pray to you our gracious God that our church can continue to be the very expression of your love, compassion, patience and gratitude. We pray for you Priests Emilie and Mavis and for our Bishop Melissa, that the challenging decisions they must make at this time are guided and grounded in your message and love.

That we might be your faithful witnesses, even to the ends of the earth, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

Our leaders face daunting challenges. We continue to pray for our national, provincial and local leaders who can never tire in their service to our communities. We pray also for our national and provincial health officers. We also pray especially for our friend and New Westminster counsellor Chuck Puchmayr who has worked tirelessly for our community and has long been a strong supporter of St. Barnabas and our programs.

That all those in positions of leadership have grace and fortitude, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

Our world is experiencing grief and suffering everywhere. The pandemic has accentuated our long existing problems brought about by poverty, inequality, political division and imperialism. May we one day come to understand the healing message of your word, and learn to live in harmony as one world under God, free of tyranny and abounding in love for one another.

That Christians everywhere might ask the spirit of God to rule their lives, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

Our community in New Westminster and here at St. Barnabas is yearning to reconvene and struggling in our physical absence from one another. May we have patience and continue to look for new and creative ways to be together.

That all in our communities know God's love and support and that Christians everywhere might ask the spirit of God to rule their lives: Lord, have mercy.

Many are experiencing need in these times. Some have lost a great deal, and recovery will be slow. Those who live on the margins have been pushed to even farther extremes. We pray especially for our sister Chantel at this time.

That all who are destitute and all who are ill might share in God's good life, we pray:
That Christians everywhere might ask the spirit of God to rule their lives: Lord, have mercy.

Around the world and in our communities many have passed, not just from the malevolent virus, but from many other sicknesses as well. We remember our brothers Jason and Leif, whose recent passing has left us raw and bereft, and all those who are heartsick in their mourning of them.
That they find peace, comfort and support in the love of God through Jesus Christ, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate the ascension of your son, teach us to trust that he lives to intercede on our behalf, now and forever. Amen.

Confession

Holy and compassionate one,
We acknowledge before you, that we have fallen
Short of the glory you have laid out before us.

In your mercy forgive us our wrongdoings,
Known and unknown, things done and left undone;
And so uphold us by your Spirit
That we may live and serve you in newness of life.
In honour and glory of your name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Loving Creator, Father and Mother, have mercy on us.
Forgive us for forgetting to love, and renew our ability
To give and receive love in all that we do. Amen

The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
And Also with you.

Offertory Hymn, Come Bring Your Burdens to God

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eternal God,
Our Savior Jesus Christ
Has promised to be with us until the end of time.
Accept all we offer you this day,
And renew us in his transfigured life;
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

...

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven 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.

...

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection

We await his coming in glory

...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and forever, Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us that we may live in you.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

**Eternal giver of love and power,
Your son Jesus Christ has sent us in to all the world
To preach the gospel of his kingdom.
Confirm us in this mission,
And help us to live the good news we proclaim;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Glory to God,
**Whose power working in us,
Can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
In the church and in Christ Jesus,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

Community Announcements

Blessing

Sending Out

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia!