

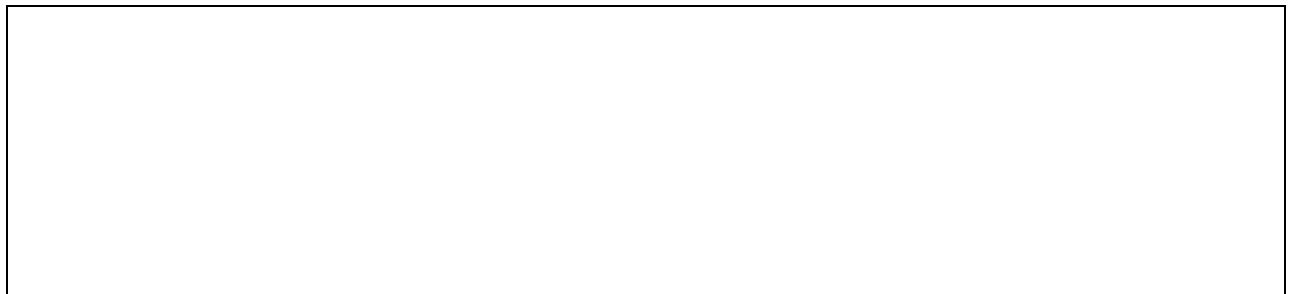


**8:30 Traditional Worship**  
**Sunday, May 21, 2023**  
**Ascension of Our Lord, Year A**

**Prelude**

Handbells     Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, arr. Sondra Tucker

**Welcome and Announcements**



**Introduction**

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 were 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 Hymn**

ELW #855     Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Canticle of Praise**

ELW p. 140    *“This is the feast of victory for our God”*

## **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us.  
Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

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

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

## Psalm 47

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup>**For the Lord Most High is | to be feared:  
a great king over | all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;

<sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound | of the ram's horn.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. **R**

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW #169     Alleluia

vs. Go and make disciples of all nations, <sup>†</sup>says the Lord;\* I am with you always, to the end <sup>†</sup> of the age.

## **Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Message

**Sermon:** "Looking for Jesus in all the Wrong Places" – Pastor Ruth Hamilton

## Hymn of the Day

ELW #393     A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

## Blessing of Graduates

## Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Ever-present God, root your church firmly in you. Let us neither become entranced staring up into the heavens, nor distraught by the suffering of the world. Teach us to see you in every face, every place, and every moment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the cosmos, you cradle creation in your loving arms and anoint it with signs of your presence. In the budding of flowers, the birth of a baby, and the formations of the land and sky, reveal your abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, your reign is above us, around us, beneath us, and beside us. As you rule the cosmos with justice and mercy, pour out your Spirit upon those in authority, that they serve humbly and justly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship, provide clarity and direction for those experiencing life transitions. We pray especially for our graduates and their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing and comforting God, we pray for those receiving new diagnoses or undergoing treatment for illness or injury (*especially*). We pray for those with chronic illnesses and we pray for those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of welcome, you call us to feast at your eternal banquet. We give thanks for those who came before us, especially Meribeth, whose lives witnessed to your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Offertory**

Organ Solo    *Adagio* (from Organ Sonata No. 1) – Felix Mendelssohn

## **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **Holy**

ELW p. 144

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## **Lamb of God**

ELW p. 112

## **Communion Hymn**

ELW #480 O Bread of Life from Heaven

## **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Gracious God,

in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **Benediction**

The God of all,  
who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.  
**Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

ELW #825     You Servants of God

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Organ Solo     *“Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott,”* op. 67 no. 6 – Max Reger (1873-1916)