

Worship Leader Edition
Ascension Sunday

May 16, 2021

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Rob*)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (*Rob*)

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for our local water sources from Nine Mile Creek to the Mississippi River.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters in this place.

L: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

L: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ many of whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

L: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit; for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

ELW #393

Verse 1

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!

Verse 2

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!

Verse 3

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!

Verse 4

"You see him now, ascending high

Up to the portals of the sky."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Here-after Jesus you shall see

Returning in great majesty."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse 5

"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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Assistant)*

L: Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING *(Jodi Murphy)*

Acts 1:1-11

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 over the course of 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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.’

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.’ 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

ELW #392

Verses 1, 2 & 5

Verse 1

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.”

Verse 2

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”?

Verse 5

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.”

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*Assistant*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: Made alive in Christ and filled with his Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

L: God of Resurrection,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer.
C: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

C: 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.

SENDING

SHARING OF THE PEACE (*Rob*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
C: And also with you!

Please share of wave of peace with one another.

COUNCIL INTRODUCTION – Al Buss, At Large

BENEDICTION (*Rob*)

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!”
Verses 1, 3, 4 & 5

ELW #389

Verse 1

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 suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Verse 4

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.

Verse 3

In ev’ry insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn or wealth divide,

Verse 5

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.

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE