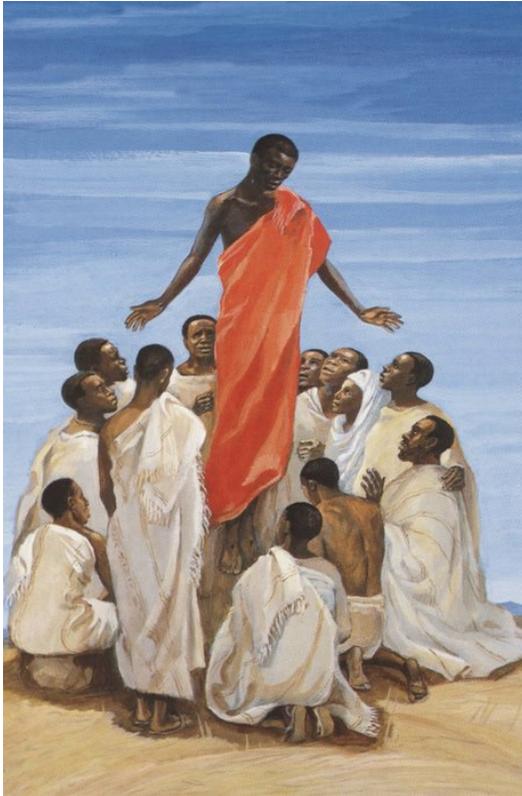


ST. LUKE'S
WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
SUNDAY MAY 24, 2020

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. *Matthew 28.19, 20*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn 317 Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah

Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah,
from the heavens praise God's name;
praise the Lord, our great Creator;
all you angels, praise proclaim.
All you hosts, together praising,
sun and moon and stars on high;
praise the Lord, O heavens of heavens,
and the floods above the sky.

Let them praise the Lord their maker:
they were made at God's command,
who established them forever,
whose decree shall ever stand.
Let the earth sing hallelujah,
raging seas, you monsters all,
fire and hail and snow and vapours,
stormy winds that hear God's call.

All you fruitful trees and cedars,
every hill and mountain high,
creeping things and beasts and cattle,
birds that in the heavens fly,
kings of earth and all you people,
princes great, earth's judges all:
praise God's name, young men and maidens,
aged men, and children small.

Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah,
for God's name alone is high,
and God's glory is exalted,
and God's glory is exalted,
and God's glory is exalted,
far above the earth and sky.

Psalm 47

- 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, *
the great sovereign over all the earth,
- 3 who subdues the peoples under us *
and the nations under our feet;
- 4 who chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises.
- 7 For God is sovereign of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations *
and sits upon the holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
who is highly exalted.

The Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles ((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 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians (1:15-23)

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn 247 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates; alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; alleluia!
take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

Highest heaven its Lord receives, alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!
though returning to his throne, alleluia!
still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!

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!

Still for us he intercedes; alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, alleluia!
he the first-fruits of our race. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!
far above the starry height, alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need, saying, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and especially the congregations in the Diocese of Huron. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Linda, Mark, Anne, and Todd, our Bishops, Sam, our archdeacon, and for all clergy and people. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression and violence rule no more.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. We pray for the whole world as we share in the effects of COVID19 – for essential service workers, health care workers, researchers, those who are ill, those who are quarantined or in isolation and those who are abandoned and alone in this time. You know all the names of those suffering. Look with compassion on those for whom we pray this day remembering especially those we now name...

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Gentle God, you guide us as we seek wisdom. We pray for teachers, professors, theologians, day care workers, and all those charged with teaching. Give them endurance and persistence in their valuable work. We pray for our Luke's Place ministry to the Western University community. We pray for all students and especially for international students far from home and family.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

We pray for St. John the Evangelist parish and St. Luke's Worshipping Community; we pray for Amanda, our foster child in India; for our brothers and sisters in our companion diocese of Amazonia in Brazil and for Marinez, their bishop; we pray for our brothers and sisters in the London Antioch Presbyterian Church.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Infinite God, your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful who have died and are now living in your eternal light!

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

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

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today 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 for ever. Amen.**

Hymn 379 Rejoice, the Lord is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus, the judge, shall come
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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