

Ascension of Our Lord: May 16, 2021

Gathering

Prelude

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "Hail Thee, Festival Day!" (v. 1-2, 5)

Refrain

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;
day when our risen Lord rose in the heavens to reign.

1 He who was nailed to the cross is ruler and Lord of all people.
All things created on earth sing to the glory of God: *Refrain*

2 Daily the loveliness grows, adorned with the glory of blossom;
heaven her gates unbars, flinging her increase of light: *Refrain*

5 Spirit of life and of pow'r, now flow in us, fount of our being,
light that enlightens us all, life that in all may abide: *Refrain*

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: His mercy endures forever.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord, your servant Chet as he reads to us the holy word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Luke writes: 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 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 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."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 47

Read responsively by men and women alternating verses. Men will read odd-numbered verses (in bold) and women will read even-numbered verses (in italics).

¹ **Clap your hands, all you peoples;**

shout to God with a joyful sound.

² *For the Lord Most High is to be feared:*

a great king 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,**

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 a song.**

⁸ *God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.*

⁹ **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 highly exalted.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

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

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song for the Word: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ 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.”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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!" (v. 1-2, 4, 7)

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| 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! | 4 "You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
| 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! | 7 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! |

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Meal

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Receive your inheritance and be lifted up.

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.

Communion Hymn: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor,
first-begotten from the dead,
you alone, our strong defender,
lifting up your people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus, true and living bread!
Jesus, true and living bread!</p> <p>2 Though the lowliest form now veil you
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there your angels hail you,
branch and flow'r of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
We in worship join with them;
we in worship join with them.</p> | <p>3 Paschal Lamb, your off'ring, finished
once for all when you were slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
cleansing souls from ev'ry stain;
cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.</p> <p>4 Life-imparting heav'nly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna
worship you, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
ris'n, ascended, glorified;
ris'n, ascended, glorified!</p> |
|---|---|

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "O Christ, Our Hope" (v. 1, 5-6)

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|---|--|
| 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world,
by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured: | 6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;
all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
through all eternity,
through all eternity! |
| 5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
our future great reward;
our only glory, may it be
to glory in the Lord,
to glory in the Lord! | |

Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Noah Moorhouse, Assisting Minister

Chet Laine, Reader

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 16: Ascension

10:30 am Worship

After worship: Christian Ed. Meeting

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

Monday, May 17

7 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 19

6:30 pm Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

Thursday, May 20

10:30 am Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

Saturday, May 22

7 pm Youth Group

Sunday, May 23: Pentecost

10:30 am Council Elections

10:40 am Worship

After Worship: Congregation Celebration

Monday, May 24

Epistle Articles Deadline

Wednesday, May 26

6:30 pm Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

Thursday, May 27

10:30 am Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Beth** (Elinor Schieman's daughter); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Ann Cathcart** (Laines' daughter-in-law); **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Colin** (Millers' grandson); **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Lee and Jane Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Ruth Lohmeier**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Hazel Mersch** (Mayhughs' granddaughter); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin, Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty

Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jacob Vegso** (Millers' nephew); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner**; **Jeanne Wagner**; **David Allen Walker and family** (community member); **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle**; **Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry**, **Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**, **Heather Segar**.

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Na-

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