

All Angels Episcopal Church
Ascension Sunday
9:15 a.m.



*Humble yourselves under God's power
so that he may raise you up in the last day.*
1 Peter 5:6

May 24, 2020

Prelude

Dale Hooley

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

Venite

BCP 83/Hymnal S39

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The psalm for this morning is Psalm 47. It can be found in your bulletin and, in your prayer books on page 650. Let us read it responsively by half verse; please respond after the asterisk.

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; *
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he 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 all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations; *

God sits upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *

with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *

and he is highly exalted.

A reading from St. Peter's first letter to the Church

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Dear friends, don't be surprised about the fiery trials that have come among you to test you. These are not strange happenings. Instead, rejoice as you share Christ's suffering. You share his suffering now so that you may also have overwhelming joy when his glory is revealed. If you are mocked because of Christ's name, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory—indeed, the Spirit of God—rests on you.

Therefore, humble yourselves under God's power so that he may raise you up in the last day. Throw all your anxiety onto him, because he cares about you. Be clearheaded. Keep alert. Your accuser, the devil, is on the prowl like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith. Do so in the knowledge that your fellow believers are enduring the same suffering throughout the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, the one who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you. To him be power forever and always. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Luke.

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus 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 from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power."

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be God.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dave Marshall

Musical Reflection

Joyce Hooey, Soloist

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

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 to the dead. 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 universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

BCP 97

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

A Collect for Sunday

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of petition with thanksgiving

You are invited and encouraged to say out loud those things that weigh on your heart and the blessings for which you give thanks to God.

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. I am sending to you what my Father has promised.”

We pray for those who are sick, those who suffer; we pray for all who protect us both here and abroad, and for those on our prayer list; especially, Downs IV, Holden, Ruth, Timothy, Lynne, Don, Bill, Dorothy Jo, Valerie, Sue, Elizabeth, Kay, Vicki, Jim, Barbara, Ward, Krista, John, Cynthia, Linda, Andres, Jonathan, Ginny, Mary Ann, Ed, Carling, Carolyne and Victoria.

We pray for John Maxheim who is recovering from surgery for tongue cancer, we pray that Tom Thomas will continue in his recovery from hip surgery.

We pray that the Holy Spirit comfort those who cannot visit their loved ones, and for those who cannot be visited, and we pray that the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit descend upon those who care for those who sick.

We pray for those we name now either silently or aloud.

Silence

We pray for those who have died, and for all who mourn, especially those we name now.

Silence

Bring us the Living Bread that is broken and shared for the world;
Lord God, help us find peace in you. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**O God, I am sorry that I have sinned against you; for all the wrongs I have done and for the good I have not done. Especially I confess these things now...
Forgive me for Jesus' sake, and grant me strength and wisdom to amend my life.
Amen.**

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful gathered around the world today, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given me that I name now ...

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot receive communion at this time, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom in me, in my family, and in my community, let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart; be my wisdom and guide me along the right pathways; and, conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep my heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ my Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with me now and always. Amen.

Reflective Hymn *O Lord, Most Holy* soloist, Joyce Hooey, accompanist Dale Hooey

Concluding prayer

BCP 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Greetings and Announcements

Closing *America, the Beautiful*

Hymnal #719

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Let us Bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude *God of Our Fathers*

Dale Hooey

Announcements

Thank You of the Week: many thanks to Linn Torres for all the work she does both inside of the church to help make the ministry run smoothly and for the outside of the church to look beautiful. Thanks Linn!

Centering Prayer Centering Prayer invites you to pray with them, every day, at 8 am, wherever you are. When you enter into prayer at 8 am (Eastern), you will know that others are praying at the same time.

Discussion Group, the article for discussion with the Men's and Women's group is available on our website: www.allangelslbk.org. All discussion groups are currently on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/5955701807> Meeting ID: 595 570 1807

The Big Yellow Bin Outside of the main entrance to the church by the angel fountain is the Manatee Food Bank drop off for nonperishable items. ECW and the Outreach Commission wants to thank you for your support of this effort; however, here are some guidelines that are especially important now that the bin is outside.

- 1. No glass jars**
- 2. No cardboard boxed items until the bin can be inside.**
- Moisture is a problem with the humidity.**
- 3. Please check expiration dates.**

What is especially needed:

Canned tuna, chicken, or salmon; Peanut butter (plastic container); Jelly (squeeze plastic container); Canned soups, stews, chili; Canned vegetables; Trail mix or dried fruit; Canned fruit in own juice or water; Powdered milk; Dried beans; Infamil formula, baby food in plastic containers; Diapers, baby wipes, Desitin cream

It may be more feasible right now to contribute money to the food bank. To give a donation go to: Meals on Wheels Plus.org or call 941-747-3663.

Leave a Puzzle, Take a Puzzle During this puzzling time, the Marshalls are working on a variety of puzzles to have a quiet moment away from a busy household. We'd like to share puzzles with you. Near the Food Bank barrel, let's have a leave-a-puzzle/take-a-puzzle for anyone who'd like to try a new puzzle.

Birthdays & Anniversaries If you have a birthday or anniversary coming up next month, please email Linn Torres at lt@allangelslbk.org

Tidings If you are not receiving our electronic newsletter, Tidings, or if you have changed your email address, please email marialove@allangelslbk.org to be added.

Reflection

Safe Church

I have read stories of churches that recently have disregarded the ten-person indoor limit, parishioners became infected, and they had to close. One such church may never open again. Church should be a safe place. To be a safe church, we have complied with the state mandated stay-at-home order for ten or less people to be gathered inside a house of worship. Since that time, I am excited at what our leadership team, church staff, and volunteers are doing to bring the living Christ to those outside of the church during this unparalleled time.

Data about the virus is becoming clearer; and unfortunately, it doesn't look good for keeping churches safe. You may have read about the choir in Washington State's Skagit Valley that, during one choir practice, one non-symptomatic infected member caused more than 60% of the choir to become infected. Two of the choir members have died. I imagine you are familiar with various meat processing facilities that temporarily closed because many workers became infected. It seems that singing and yelling (like in a processing facility) are ways the virus can spread quickly.

On Tuesday, the diocesan clergy had a Zoom meeting with the bishop to discuss keeping church safe. In preparation for the meeting, we were assigned material to read that took about 90-minutes to complete. Each piece of data seemed to be more alarming than the next. Covid-19 is an airborne virus that spreads on exhaled water droplets. Sneezing and coughing

produce the most aerosol particles. But, the best way to spread it is by singing or yelling because it is a longer duration of exhaled air. This is very bad news for school choirs and band programs, for barbershop quartets to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. To be frank, I don't know what my rising senior in High School is going to do with his plans to play his clarinet and baritone sax in band during the fall school semester.

The second piece of bad news is the equation of exhaled aerosol particles with regards to time. If you walk past a non-face masked shopper at CVS, you will get a small amount of virus particles into your system. Let's say the body can take 1,000 particles before getting sick; this brief shopping encounter could get you to 200. However, if you were sitting in a room for an hour with that person, just breathing the same indoor air could bring you over the 1,000 threshold. Add talking, and it takes less time. Add singing, and, well, you get the idea. As a result of this data, the state is allowing small indoor gatherings that typically take a short duration of time. If you have noticed, waiting rooms have been eliminated because of the equation of time and aerosol particle. Oddly enough, bars, churches, and indoor sporting events seem to be most at risk because people congregate, talk or sing/yell, and typically spend more than fifteen minutes.

One more piece of the equation – location (location, location). There is a big difference with indoor and outdoor air. Imagine if Marjorie Stapleton sat in her normal seat; right side, second to last row, second to last chair; and I was up by the organ. I don't smoke, but, for the sake of example, let's say I lit a cigarette. How long would it take for Marjorie to smell the cigarette? I'm not sure but I think eventually she would. Likewise, let's say she opened a box of chocolates. Eventually, I would be able to smell chocolate. Using the same scenario, let's say she and I are outside. In order to smell the chocolate, or the cigarette, we would have to be a lot closer. Also, the smell of each would be diminished when compared to being inside. This is why there is only one case of virus transmission outdoors (and that case is rather suspect, it probably occurred inside a bathroom at an outdoor event).

The missing part of the equation, when talking about an airborne virus, has to do with particle size. We know that when talking, rather large exhaled droplets can travel three feet. The six-foot distance rule was set up in order to double that range. The big question has to do with small particles that can remain in the air for quite a while. The chocolate particle that tells our nose that someone has opened a box of candies is small and can stay airborne for more than thirty minutes. ... just ask any child who has eaten some candy and then hid it from their parents. Based on data collected from a restaurant in China where the air conditioning unit seemed to help spread the virus from one table to another, and a different study from a call center in an office building where one person spread the infection to more than 90 other employees on the same floor, we know that distance and time are a major factor (restaurant – short time, close distance; office – eight-hour shift, long indoor distance). How does this relate to All Angels?

Right now, we are limited to ten people or less inside, and 50 people or less outside with six-feet of distance between family units. To produce (for lack of a better churchy term) a service, it takes 8 – 10 people; thus, we are allowing only those who are scheduled to serve inside. We currently have more than 10, but less than 50, congregants outside either in their cars, or sitting on benches, or on beach chairs. This is keeping us safe. Sooner rather than later, Episcopal churches in this diocese can consider holding indoor worship services up to 25% of capacity. For us, this is 35 people (45 total including those serving). Although Sunday attendance is lower in the summer, I don't recall a Sunday where we had less than 45.

While we are learning more about the virus and how to be a safe church, there are many more questions to answer about going to 25% capacity. I don't have the answers to these questions yet. The Vestry and our leadership team are looking at a whole variety of options for when the time comes that we can go to 25% occupancy. Please know that we are working diligently and praying fervently to do this right. I welcome your thoughts and feedback on this. We are all in this together and we are bringing the living Christ to those inside and outside the church. And, we are doing it safely.

- Fr. Dave