

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Worship at Home: During Our Blessed Interruption

Spiritual Communion

May 16, 2021

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord



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Priest-in-Charge

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THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect of Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord, God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.***

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect for The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

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 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Psalm 47

Omnes gentes, plaudite

Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.

For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.

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

He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

Epistle

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.
A brief silence.

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your
church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear
us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with
your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods.
Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish
your world. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those in authority the spirit of your love, so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources, and all people flourish and live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families especially Denise Brown, Janette Davis, Doris Dickerson, Christina Foster, Christine Forrest, Eudora Forrest, Lewis Forrest, Annie Gould, Eva Hicks, Floyd Higgs, Jasmine Kee, Eli Kince, Mary Little, Jonathan Lyles, Michael Mack, Clarissa Martin, Haywood McCallum, Johnetta Merritt, Lela A. Morris, Roscoe Parker, Beblon Parks, Randolph Phillip, Venita Phillip, Steve Russell, Frank Saunders, Dora Sims, Amy Smith, James Smith, Pam Southall, Patty Sydnor, Kenny Taylor, Ed West, and Marilyn West. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Judith Stallings, Corey Osman, Anetia Mikell, Moses Wright, Michael Seabrook as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world. Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ. We remember saints in our lives and in our community. Thank you for their gifts among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

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

People: *And also with you.*

The Offertory

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the gifts we give. All are invited to make a gift to support St. Philip's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. See our website, stphilipsrva.org for ways to give. The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

Musical Offering

"Spirit Song"

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

People: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us: that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

*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
for ever and ever. **Amen.***

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Invitation to Holy Communion

In the Episcopal tradition, we believe that when circumstances make it impossible to consume the Eucharistic elements, our desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion.

Celebrant: I invite all those who are unable to receive the consecrated bread and wine this day, but who long for the grace and blessing of God through our Savior Jesus Christ, to join me in this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Celebrant and People:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: May life surprise you every day with its new dawn and where hope remains present. May love nurture your life with what is necessary to strengthen your desire to live. And may peace, which is the fruit of justice, accompany you today and all the days of your life. May you be perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life—be among you and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Worship Participants

Lector: Lela Morris

Soloists:

Charmaine McGilvary / Karen Savage

Janet Copeland / Anthony Ray

Fronnell Weaver

Organist: Dr. Willis Barnett



Virtual Worship, Prayer, Bible Study and more	Time	Phone	St. Philip's Website or Facebook Live	Zoom
Sunday Bible Study	9 AM	Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 656298 #	-	-
Sunday Morning Worship	10 AM	Dial: 1-301-715-8592 ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878	Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA	Meeting ID: 937 9611 8377 Password: 074878
1 st & 3 rd Sundays Only Youth Sunday School	11:15 AM	-		Meeting ID: 894 3313 5393 Password: Jesus
Tuesday Night Prayer	8 PM	-	Go to our website: stphilipsrva.org or our Facebook page: St. Philip's Episcopal RVA	-
Wednesday Circle of Love Noonday Prayer	12 PM	Dial: 978-990-5000 Access code: 870051 #	-	-
General emails from church – Please check often and READ. Lots of church and Diocesan information included!				