

St Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose, CA  
Morning Prayer, Thursday, May 26, 2022  
Feast of the Ascension

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text    *Reader 2: Italics*    **Both: Bold**  
**If there are 2 lessons, a reading and subsequent canticle may be omitted.**

**You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.**

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**Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,  
a new world has broken into ours—**

a world in which justice does come for the poor,  
freedom comes for the prisoners,  
and healing for the sick.

**Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,  
a new community has been formed—**

a community that loves and cares for all members,  
a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected,  
a place where all find a place of belonging.

**Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,  
a new creation has begun—**

all that was distorted is being restored,  
all that is corrupted is being renewed,  
all that was broken is being made whole.

**Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,  
God's new world has begun.** <sup>1</sup>

O Lord, open our lips  
*and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*He has given us new life and hope.*  
He has raised Jesus from the dead.

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<sup>1</sup> ~ written by Christine Sine, and posted on **Godspace**.

<http://godspace-msa.com/2014/05/13/ascension-day-what-is-it-all-about/>

*God has claimed us as his own.  
He has brought us out of darkness.  
He has made us light to the world.  
Alleluia. Christ is risen.*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**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.**

Psalm 8

1 O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world!  
2 *Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.*  
3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger.  
4 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,*  
5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? the son of man that you should seek him out?  
6 *You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honor;*  
7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; you put all things under his feet:  
8 *All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,*  
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.  
10 O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world!

**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.**

*A reading from Daniel*

7 <sup>9</sup> *As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One\* took his throne;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.*  
10 *A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousand served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgement,  
and the books were opened.*  
11 *I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed*

*and given over to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. <sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being\* coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One\* and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

**Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, thrones and dominations, principalities and powers. All things were created through him and for him: he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, and so he is pre-eminent above all. For it was the Father's will that the fullness of God should dwell in him, and that through him all things should be reconciled to himself. Through the blood of the Cross he brought peace to all things, both on Earth and in the heavens.**

*Colossians 1:12-20*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

*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.*

*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

**There was a great multitude that no one could count,**

**They were wearing white robes**

**and were holding palm branches in their hands.**

**And they cried out in a loud voice:**

**"Salvation belongs to our God,**

**who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**

**Praise and glory and wisdom**

**and thanks and honor and power and strength**

**be to our God for ever and ever."**

**They are before the throne of God**

**and serve him day and night in his temple;**

**and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.**

**Never again will they hunger;**

**never again will they thirst.**

**The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.**

**For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;**

**he will lead them to springs of living water.**

**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."** *Revelation 7:9-10, 12, 15-17*

**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.**

*from Common Worship Hosea 6.1-6*

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 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 catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*  
Let us pray.

**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.**

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.*

We pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

For your world and your children,  
we bring our prayers to you,  
God of love.

For those creatures who are misunderstood,

for those place which are abused,  
may there be loving care.

For those who have not known love,  
for those who struggle to care,  
may there always be another chance.

For those who live in fear,  
for those who bring fear to others,  
may there be justice and peace.

For those living with wounds,  
for those confounded by death and loss,  
may there be hope for new life.

For those who want to understand more,  
for those who are content,  
may minds and hearts remain open.

For your world and your children,  
we open our hearts.  
Hear our cries, and lead us,  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

Where did you go Jesus?  
Where did you go?  
We stand, necks craning back, looking heavenwards  
But we cannot see you  
Where did you go?  
Did you leave us?

Hush my child,  
Listen, listen,  
Listen for the breeze  
Listen for the breath  
Listen for the Holy Wind's whispered promise

You are not alone  
You are not alone  
You are never alone

My love is yours  
My strength is yours

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<sup>2</sup> ~ written by Jenny Adams. Posted on the Church of Scotland's [Starters for Sunday](#) website.

My wisdom... all yours for the taking  
Listen, listen, listen....

It comes, a gentle breeze, caressing your spirit  
It comes, building, energising, filling the spaces  
Until you are full

O Holy Spirit!  
Come!

Breath of God  
Spirit of God  
Our wise counsellor  
Our constant companion  
Helps us to remember that you are always with us  
In persecutions, and turmoil, and dread  
In excitements, and joy and love  
In the mundane and everyday  
You are. Here.

O God  
Our God  
We praise you  
We call on you  
We rely on you  
As we stand and stare  
As we wait again,  
for the reminder that Pentecost only needed to happen once  
as you promised,  
for now the Spirit is always with us

Creator, Brother, Breath  
**Amen and amen**<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> ~ written by Julie, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.org/>

