



Ascension Sunday
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, May 16, 2021
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Dowagiac, MI

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE (BCP p. 356)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 47 (BCP p. 546) read in unison

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

⁴⁴[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.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)

The Rev. Karen Joy Kelly

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We stand amazed, O Lord, at your presence with us in our time and beyond time. We turn our gaze to you and ask for your guidance and protection.

Fix the eyes of the church always on you, that we may see your glory and receive your blessing as we follow you in everything we do. Guide our leaders and give them hearts for you and your people. We pray for Justin, archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our presiding bishop, for the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan; for our diocesan staffs; and for Diane, our Rector. In our diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Trinity, Flushing –Norb Birchmeier, Sr. Warden; for St. David’s, Lansing – David Pike, Rector, and for retirement blessings for David and his family; and for Grace Church, Holland – Jennifer Adams, Rector.

Pray for the church.

Turn the hearts of the rulers of the nations toward the peace which you intend for all people, toward wise stewardship of the earth's resources, for the good of all people in every time and place. We pray for our president, Joe; for our governor, Gretchen; for congress and the judiciary of our land. May they lead with justice and peace.

Pray for the nations of the world.

Increase our efforts to become determined and compassionate carriers of your love and comfort to a broken world. We pray for those who are sick – (add names for your parish).

Pray for those in need of healing.

Receive those who have died into the heavenly kingdom where there is no pain or grief, where time is no more, where they sing with your glorious saints in light.

Pray for those who have died.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be your faithful witnesses in every area of our lives, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. We depend on your constant presence and power. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Great Thanksgiving

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B (BCP 367)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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Presider: The Rev. Pamela Sten

Reader/Intercessor: