



**CHRIST CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
EPISCOPAL PARISH AND SCHOOL, PARADISE VALLEY  

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**KNOW CHRIST, LOVE CHRIST, SERVE CHRIST**

*Ascension Day Sunday - Rite II Morning Prayer, Year B*

**16 May, 2021**

**Online Morning Prayer Service - 9:00 am**

**Prelude** Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates  
18th c. tune, harm. Lowell Mason

**Hymn** I come with joy to meet my Lord (stanzas 1-3)  
**Hymnal 304**

**The Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* Lord, open our lips.

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.  
Alleluia.

**Gloria** **Hymnal S280**

**Psalm 93** *Dominus regnavit* **BCP p. 722**

*Reader* A reading from **The Acts of the Apostles.**

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."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Reader*     **A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.**

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.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.  
*All*         **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

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

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

*Celebrant* 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.

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

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Daniel P. Richards

*All* 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.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All*        **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.**

**The Prayers**

*Reader*    In the joy and hope of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Father.

That our Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to the Father.

*All*        **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader*    That the Church may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter and that all bishops, priests, and deacons may be renewed in their zeal to preach the gospel: we particularly pray for our Bishops: Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Jennifer, our Diocesan Bishop; and for the Clergy and Vestry of our own parish. For all of these, we pray to the Father.

*All*        **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader*    That God may grant us humility to reach out to one another in Christian love, we pray to the Father.

*All*        **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* That God may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, especially for Carla B., Thomas C., Tracy M., Tom T., the Bull family, the Swasey family, and all our parishioners and loved ones currently on the Prayer List. For those in need, we pray to the Father.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* That, according to God's promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day. Especially for David B., Norma S., and all our loved ones who have gone before us in lives of faith, we pray to the Father.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* That God may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## **Announcements**

*All* Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### The Blessing

*Celebrant* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**Hymn** I come with joy to meet my Lord (stanzas 4-5)

**Hymnal 304**

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