



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**Ascension Day
May 16, 2021
Holy Eucharist, Rite Two**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer. The service is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Hymn

*Hail the day that sees him rise
Hymnal 214*

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The People say together

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.*

The Gloria

Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The 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."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The 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.

The Second Reading: 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Hymnal 544

The Holy 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.

The Sermon

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Prayers of the People — Form III

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People *That we all may be one.*

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest.
People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for those on our prayer list, especially: Frances. We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially: Mason, Sandy, Linda, Les, Ryan, Clay.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Hallelujah Chorus
G.F. Handel

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A
BCP 361

The people remain standing, as able.

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 him thanks and praise.

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:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 125

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 for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 say,

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

The Communion Anthem

Sing forth rejoice!

The Communion Hymn

Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord
Hymnal 328

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
Hymnal 460

The 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.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the life of L. B. Groover.

Remember in your prayers:

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Roxanne Wallis, Malcolm Velasca, Kiran Force, Alice Magnan, Annie Bulford, Margaret Crary, Trina Hall, Tyler Chapman, Anna Endres, Kimberly Leitch, Candy Waldron, Kirk Goodell, Bo Warren, Brittany Jones, Ralph Hajosy, Judy Causey, Jeff Lawhead, Billy Newman, Phil Watkiss, Joan Kelley.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Jamie Sheddon, Charles Daniel, Peter Funnell, Frances Lemieux.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Jennifer, Nicole, Philip, Frankey, Mark, Geoff, Renee, Heather, Virginia, Jennifer; the Clergy and Staff: Hazel, Mason, Lesley, Dawn, Elisabeth, Mary Margaret, Kimberly, Cole.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Nick Watts, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Mason Copeland, Sandy Stuckey, Linda Tudor, Les Turner, Ryan Hawes, Clay McEntire.

Parish Announcements

Worship Service Format & Schedule -- Services are held with COVID-19 restrictions in place, such as the requirement of masks, no congregational singing, and communion in one kind only. *Beginning the Day of Pentecost, May 23, preregistration will no longer be required.* The number of people in the congregation will continue to be limited and people will be asked to sign in as they enter the narthex. The 10:30 service will also continue to be live streamed and viewable online.

End of the Year Celebration! -- The Children's and Youth Ministries would like to invite you to a "Frigid" End of the Year Celebration with Frigid Frog! Join us after the church service on Sunday, May 23 for fellowship and frigid treats in the church parking lot. We will begin serving treats at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome!

Church Office Hours -- The church office has resumed regular office hours on a limited basis. Hours are Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To maintain the safety of staff and parishioners, appointments for visits are required and can be made by contacting either [Lesley Williams](#) or the [Rev. Hazel Smith Glover](#) directly. Masks and social distancing will be required of any visitors. We appreciate your understanding.

Men's "Early Risers" Virtual Coffee Meetup -- All men of St. Paul's are invited to attend a virtual "Early Risers" Coffee Meetup via Zoom on Friday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. [Click here](#) to join at that time.

Godly Play: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. -- Godly Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that includes storytelling, interaction, exploration, and creativity to teach and enliven Bible stories. In Godly Play, for ages 4 through 5th grade, marvelous things happen as children "work, play and wonder together at the awesomeness of God." Email Elisabeth Copeland at elisabeth@stpaulsnewnan.org for the Zoom meeting link.

Adult Formation: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. -- Please join us for a study of Barbara Brown Taylor's Holy Envy. The book's subtitle is, "Finding God in the Faith of Others," and one of the reviews says it "reminds us that God is bigger than any one religion. Prepare to be surprised and, best of all, to come to know God in a new way." Even if you don't have the book, we would love to include you in our discussion. Our meeting ID is 837 1763 1107, passcode is 097390. Email Lauren Gallagher at laurengallagher77@gmail.com with any questions.

Prayer Requests -- Prayer requests for the parish prayer list or the confidential Daughters of the King prayer list may be submitted online at <https://tinyurl.com/stpprayers> or you may also contact Hazel+ directly.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, Rector; **Mason Copeland**, Organist and Choirmaster; **Lesley Williams**, Parish Administrator; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Elisabeth Copeland**, Director of Children's Ministry; **Mary Margaret Stewart**, Youth Director; **Kimberly Stokes**, Bookkeeper; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate.

Vestry

Jennifer Thomasson, Senior Warden; **Nicole Edwards**, **Philip Hand**, **Frankey Henderson**, **Mark LeVan**, **Geoff Mattered**, **Renee Powell**, **Heather Turner**, **Virginia Williams**, **Jennifer Jones**, Clerk of the Vestry; **Beth Gourley**, Treasurer.