

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Observed)
May 16, 2021

PRELUDE

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Donald Busarow

INVOCATION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

C **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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LITANY OF PRAISE

P Let us adore our heavenly Father, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with an everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

C **We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.**

P Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forevermore; who has opened the Kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and King.

C **You are the King of glory, O Christ.**

P Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by whom we are born into the family of God; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

C **All praise to You, O Holy Spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

(During the reading, the Paschal Candle is extinguished as a symbol of Jesus' ascension back to the Father.)

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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15-23

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *(Congregation rising)*

P Alleluia. "I will not leave you orphaned," says the Lord. "I will come to you."

**C “Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed:] ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Alive in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers to God, who promises to hear and answer in steadfast love.

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

C Your mercy is great.

P You fill the earth with Your glory. Send rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods or other disasters. Replenish and nourish Your world, especially where food is harvested and new life is emerging. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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 the vulnerable are protected and all people may flourish. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You heal those who are sick and bind up the broken-hearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, work places, schools, and families. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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, persevere through adversity, and share the riches of Your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You put Your great power to work in the world by raising Christ from the dead. We remember the saints in our lives and in our community, and give You thanks for their gifts among us. Raise us and all who have died in the faith to eternal glory with Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P These and all our prayers we lift up to You, O Lord, trusting in Your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Having revealed Your glory in the face of Your only-begotten Son, You have exalted Him to the highest majesty at Your right hand, that He might graciously fill all things. Grant us faithfully to eat and drink this Holy Supper, trusting our reigning Savior Jesus, who though unseen in His ascended glory, is here present to save by His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C 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 forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

P Take and eat, the body of Christ given for you...
(*We eat the bread*)

P Take and drink, the blood of Christ, shed for you...
(*We drink the cup*)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We Praise You and Acknowledge You

Mark Bender

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Please place your offerings and Attendance Forms in the offering plate by the Jesus Fountain as you leave.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:

	Lector	Usher Teams
5:30	James Bunn	
9:00	Katie Vogt	Bill Vogt, Lilann Skeckowski
10:45	James Maxeiner	Georgine Read

News and Notes:

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Rob Hartwell on his birthday, May 16, from his family.

Holy Baptism: We rejoice with the newly baptized and welcome them into the family of faith. Evan Shaw, son of Meghan and Chris Shaw, is being baptized at a special service at noon on May 16, 2021.

FREE Covid Anxiety Support Group available through the Lutheran Counseling Center. This group is for anyone experiencing anxiety or loss from a multitude of Covid-related issues. The six-week session begins on **Thursday, May 20, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Facilitator of this group is clinical supervisor Dr. Nichole Adams. Call LCC at 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail the Center at Center@LCCNY.org to reserve your place. **Must RSVP by Monday, May 17.**

Prayer Conference call continues each week on **Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.** The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982. If you have a specific prayer request, please fill out the back side of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

Blessing Basket/Food for ECAP: Drop off items in the Blessing Baskets in the Friendship Room on weekends or leave them with the receptionist during the week. Outdoor drop-off in the Concordia parking lot is available on the third Thursday of the month. The next date is **May 20**.

Pentecost Piano Recital - Hear live music in our beautiful sanctuary as Middle School teacher Dr. Matthew Martinez plays piano favorites on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23**. There will be two performances, **at 3:00 & 6:00 p.m.**, with limited seating to accommodate social distancing. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/child (18 and under), and all proceeds will be used to support our school. Pick up an order form at the Reception table and submit with your payment or go online to <https://tinyurl.com/May23Piano>.

2021 TCS Golf Outing - ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT! Register now for a chance to get out on the links at Siwanoy Country Club on **Monday, May 24**. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/GolfOuting21>

SOUP KITCHEN MEALS: Our next date is **Wednesday, May 26**. Please sign up in advance to choose your volunteer date and food item, pick up an aluminum tray, prepare food at home, and drop off at church between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. For more info, contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or NPalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

Baccalaureate Sunday will be June 6. Graduates from The Chapel School will be attending at 10:45 a.m. We especially encourage all other graduates (8th, 12th, college and graduate school) to attend the 9:00 a.m. service. Prayers will be said for our graduates, and we will help celebrate with individually wrapped graduation cookies to enjoy or take home after the service on Sunday.

- ❖ If you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, **please provide the following graduate information:** (1) Name of graduate; (2) Name of school; (3) Plans for fall, if known. Use the back of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

The deadline to receive information for printing in the bulletin is **Sunday, May 30**.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Frank Clark, Barbara DeGeorge, Annabella Hansen, Tiffany Ramos Meneres, Sylvia Puig, Ralph Qualetoro, Justin Riedl, Bryan Schmeling, Lila Slattery, Steve Smith, Ben Tashoff

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- † **Rev. Richard Niebanck**, pastor emeritus at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Delhi NY, husband of Lay Deacon Shirley, who passed away on May 5, 2021

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