

ASCENSION DAY
24 May 2020 – 10:15AM



Ascension Day – by Eddie Calz

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PRELUDE: *COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING* MARY McDONALD

OPENING SENTENCE (BCP P. 75)

The Officiant says

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

ANTIPHON

Alleluia. Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

PSALM: PSALM 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.

²For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.

³He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.

⁴He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

⁵God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.

⁸God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.

¹⁰The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:1-11

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.

SECOND READING: 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53

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.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SERMON

FR. LEE STEPHENS

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

SALUTATION

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Give your wisdom and strength to Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States, Kevin Stitt the Governor of this state, and Stan Booker, the Mayor of this city, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,

especially all of our essential workers and those in the military who are currently deployed Bernie and Jeff – or on active duty – especially, Alexander, Carl, Cody, Connor, Dan, Derek and Allison, Dominik, Grant, Greg, Hope, Joe, John Alex, Joshua, Nathaniel, Nick, Patrick and Carly, Stephanie, Sydnee, and Thomas, and those unknown to us who serve in the military. Grant we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; (especially Andrew, Ann, Austin, Benjamin, Betty, Brandon Carolyn, Catherine, Cathy, Christian, Clarence, Cody, Deaton, Debbie, Diane, Ed, Elaine, Frank, Fred, Heather, Ivory, Jane, Janet, Jennifer, John, June, Kelsey, Lee, Linda, Lizann, Logan, Louann, Nathan, Pat B., Pat R., Richard, Roy, Sandy, Sherry, Spencer, Stephanie, Tim, Tony, V.J., and Mary Routon's Liberian family). Give courage and hope to the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We offer our thanks for all the gifts of our lives – for the dedication of school teachers throughout the weeks of the 2019–2020 academic year, for graduating seniors – both high school and college, especially Erica Grimes – daughter of Glen & Joanne Boyer – graduation from Arizona State University with a degree in organizational managements as she supported their household while her husband and son’s father now serving his fifth tour in the Middle East.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.*

SECOND COLLECT

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR MISSION

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may

truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

HYMN *WE WALK BY FAITH, AND NOT BY SIGHT* • HYMN 209

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

CONCLUDING VERSICLE

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

POSTLUDE: *OPEN OUR EYES, LORD*

BOB CULL

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledges

While technology allows us to do many things online, passing the collection plate is not one of them. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is vitally important that we all remember our financial commitment to the life and ministry of our church, and as much as we are able, to keep up with our pledges and giving. Thank you so much for continuing to send in your pledge checks.

Prayer Requests

While the church building is closed for services, meetings and gatherings, let us not forget about each other. Check in on those who may not have a way to get the things they need. If any of you need anything while we are encouraged to stay at home, please give us a call, send us an email at standrewslawton@att.net, or reach out to those in the congregation who can help you. No one needs to be going without during this time. Let us all band together to make sure everyone is doing well. Someone will be around to receive messages off the phone, and/or answer emails.

Adult Formation Class

The Rev'd Isaac Mwangi will be leading Adult Formation by Zoom each Sunday at 9am! The group will be reading the book of Acts Chapters 6 and 7 and then Isaac will lead the discussion.

Click following link and use Meeting ID and Password below:
<https://zoom.us/j/147411284?pwd=cmRiazBzcU9mYXY4Q2UyajFYakNTQT09>

Meeting ID: 147 411 284
Password: 019842

OR --- Dial following number for phone/audio participation 1 312 626 6799

IF YOU MISSED IT, BE SURE TO WATCH TO A "LIVE READING" VIA ZOOM FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS CHAPTERS 4 & 5. YOU CAN FIND IT ON OUR ST ANDREW'S FACEBOOK PAGE OR OUR ST ANDREW'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-HHXbrOcww&t=6s>

REV'D ISAAC MWANGI BEGINS WITH THE PRE-READING BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF ACTS, FOLLOWED BY THE "LIVE READING." REV'D ISAAC THEN FOLLOWS UP THE READING THE INSIGHTS AND DISCUSSION.