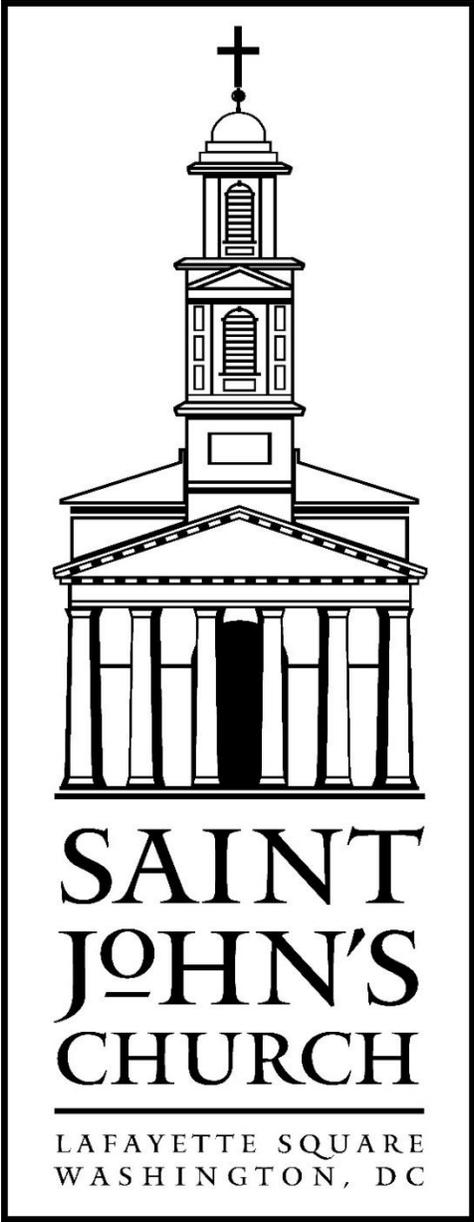


**THE ASCENSION SUNDAY**



**May 24, 2020**

## WELCOME BY GREETERS AND USHERS

## RECTOR'S WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Priest:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Priest:* On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*-Psalm 118:24*

## INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Priest:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Priest and People:*

**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. Alleluia.**

## CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

*Led by Alex Stolar.*

*Pascha nostrum*

**1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

*Leader:* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

*People:* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death,  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die,  
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

**Leader:** Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

**People:** Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

**HYMN 579**

*Eternal Father, strong to save*

*Sung by the Parish Choir.*

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the  
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic  
3 O Spi - rit, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, our peo - ple shield in  
rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its  
runs a - main by moun - tain pass or val - ley low; wher -  
firm - a - ment; O Wind of hea - ven, by thy might save  
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -  
own ap - point - ed li - mits keep: O hear us when we  
ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy  
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 guard - ing hand from ev - ery per - il on the land.  
 watch - ful care from ev - ery per - il in the air.  
 rise to thee glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

Words: Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825-1878), alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877-1961), alt.  
 Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)  
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## THE READING

*Read by Martha Ellison.*

**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."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 47

*Read by Nkem Onwuamaegbu.*

- 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 READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

**Luke 24:44-53**

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.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**     *Christ whose glory fills the skies*

T. Frederick Candlyn  
(1892–1964)

*Sung by the Parish Choir.*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine;  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine;  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day. Amen.

**THE SERMON**

**The Rev. Savannah Ponder**

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

*Priest and People:*

**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 LORD'S PRAYER**  
*The people stand or kneel.*

*Led by the Agnew Family.*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**Leader 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE SUFFRAGES**

*Read by Victoria and Stewart Jeffries.*

**Versicle:** Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**Response:** **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

**Versicle:** Day by day we bless you;

**Response:** **We praise your Name for ever.**

**Versicle:** Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Response:** **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

**Versicle:** Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**Response:** **For we put our trust in you.**

**Versicle:** Let your way be known upon earth;

**Response:** **And we shall never hope in vain.**

**THE COLLECT FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY**

**Priest:** 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.

## A COLLECT FOR MEMORIAL DAY

**Priest:** O God, we ask your strength, that we might dedicate ourselves to perfecting your kingdom of peace and justice among nations. Let us give thanks for the many blessings of freedom which we possess, purchased at the cost of many lives and sacrifices. Fill us with courage to fulfill our tasks and in no way break faith with the fallen. We commend these fallen to your mercy and ask that you give them eternal rest. This we ask and pray in your name. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Led by Julia Koster.*

(from Brian McLaren's *We Make the Way by Walking*)

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying, "We thank you, living God."

**Leader:** For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the *Anglican Church of Southern Africa\** and *the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*. For *Michael*, our Presiding Bishop, for our Bishops, *Mariann* and *Chilton*. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for *St. Augustine's Church, Washington*, and for all people whose lives reveal the image of Christ:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For *Donald*, our President, the leaders of *Congress*, the *Supreme Court*, and for all who serve our country, that they may work for justice, freedom, and peace:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

\* In particular, the Kwasa Centre in the Diocese of the Highveld.

**Leader:** For challenges which call forth new strength, for failures which teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For those in special need today, especially those who are sick and who are shut-ins, and for your care for all those in need:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Karolina Arias, Leslie Blakey, Gary Hailey, Charlotte Hantson, Nancy Klotz, Tim Kowalczyk, Abbott McCartney, Katherine McClintic, Katherine Montgomery, Greg Morrison, Rob Mosbacher, Uche Onwuamaegbu, Harker Rhodes, Samantha Scheff, Leila Taaffe, Andrew Tierney, Audrey Trotman, Michelle Turner, Adrienne Usher, Sophie Vandergrift, and Dace Vidins*; for those celebrating an anniversary this week, especially *Elizabeth Lewis and David Abernethy, Christina and Matthew Berlin, Maggie and Steve Coppinger, Sara and Bill Josey, and Katherine and Nate Rawlings*; and in thanksgiving for *Charlotte Dalton Highsmith* who was born March 30, 2020, *Stephen Buford Smith III* who was born May 1, 2020, and *Anna Carroll Hallett* who was born on May 15, 2020.

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For our country and all who serve on behalf of our civic life:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For those who have died, especially *Ray Barkett* who died May 15, 2020, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

**Leader:** And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend:

**People:** **We thank you, living God.**

## A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

*Read by Frank Klotz.*

**Leader:** Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**Priest and People:**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

*Read by Louisa Tierney.*

**Leader:** 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.

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

## **THE BLESSING**

**Priest:** Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Deacon:** 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. Amen.

*-Ephesians 3:20, 21*

**POSTLUDE** Prologue on 'Ascension'

Healey Willan  
(1880-1968)

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**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**USHERS:** Pat and Jim Czerwonky and Anthony Pegues.

**GREETERS:** Brenda and Willy Wolter.