

Family Worship for the Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 24, 2020
(The Ascension of our Lord – Observed)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

L: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

L: Let us make our confession to God. **Almighty, God, merciful Father, I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 47

- ¹ Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
² **For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.**
³ He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
⁴ **He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**
⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**
⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
⁸ **God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**
⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

HYMN [The Church's One Foundation](#) (LBW #369, w/lyrics)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory; **through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING - Acts 1:1-11

SECOND READING - Ephesians 1:15-23

GOSPEL VERSE (Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

L: The Holy Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 24:44-53

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Look, the Sight is Glorious](#) (LBW #156, with Lyrics)

THE NICENE CREED

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 worshipped 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

EASTER OFFERING *(Spoken; LBW #173, st. 1&6)*

L: The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;

R: a royal diadem adorns the might victor's brow.

L: The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him;

R: His people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme!

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AARONIC BLESSING *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.

L: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you

L: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

R: And give you peace. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

[Take My Life](#) *(LBW #406)*

Extra

[The Ascension of the Lord](#) *(Teaching from Bishop Fulton Sheen)*

ASCENSION READINGS

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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 one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then [Jesus] said to them, "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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

PRAYERS

Lord God, for all the spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus which you have given to us and now in Holy Baptism which you have promised to Audrey Jane Bazemore; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For calling us in Holy Baptism to be the Bride of Christ and for the spiritual cleansing you give by the washing of water with the word; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For the forgiveness of our sins, the riches of our inheritance and the promise of eternal life; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For your help in times of trouble, your Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts and for the gift of faith; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For your One and Holy Church that lives through the centuries and among all the world's people, and for our making us members of the Body of Christ; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For our lives, our talents, and our future opportunities; **We give you thanks and praise.**

For our graduates whom we honor this day, Alex, Caroline, Drew, Hunter, and Ginger; as well as Harrold, Jennifer, Jessica, Kaley and Shawn; **We give you thanks and praise.**

Continue to pour out your blessings upon them Lord. Guard their steps and enlighten their minds. As they go forth into the world help them to meet the many challenges of adulthood with the faith, hope and love which is ours in Christ Jesus. Let them not forget to whom they belong or the families from which they came, but keep them in the fellowship of your love by which you have nurtured them all these years. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayers for those who place themselves in harm's way to care for others: for all doctors, nurses and medical personnel, for police officers, jailers, firefighters and soldiers. As they carry out their duties to do good, keep them as the apple of your eye. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayers for those who have lost jobs, those having trouble paying bills and putting food on the table, and those overwhelmed by fear and panic at this time. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayers for Greg Hall and bring healing to his body as he recovers in Effingham Hospital. Strengthen his wife Jan as she tends to him with her prayers and personal care. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayers asking your healing for our sister Judi; continue to strengthen Darius, Cutter and Cassie; Jason and J.W.; Sheila and Izzy; Clyde and Jason and Betty. In your great mercy spare the life of Marcus Zeigler and comfort the families of all those who mourn. Hear also our prayers for those whose needs we carry in our hearts....(silent prayer). Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we lift our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, ascended to the right hand of your power and glory, and Lord over all things in heaven and earth for the sake of the church. **Amen.**

Prayers for May 24, 2020

Prayers for Audrey Jane Bazemore upon her Holy Baptism

Prayers for our Graduates

High School: Alex, Caroline, Drew Dasher, Hunter Morgan, Ginger Vorel

College: Jennifer Blanton, Kaley Hahn, Shawn Sanderlin, Jessica Terry, Harrold Wheeler III

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Greg Hall, hospitalized at Effingham for Pancreatitis (5.17.2020)

Darius Prescott, Cutter & Cassie, recovering from auto accident (5.17.2020)

Jason Pridgen, liver troubles, friend of Betty Robinson (5.17.2020)

JW Porter, multiple health problems, cousin of Brenda Dasher (5.17.2020)

Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall; 5.17)

Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls; 5.17)

Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z; 3.17.2020)

Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M; 5.10)

Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Judi Zipperer, recovering at home from a heart procedure (4.26)

Jason Patterson (friend of S. Everett; 4.19)

Betty Weathers (sister of Mary Dasher): whose daughter Tina died this past week. (4.19)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)

Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)

Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton

Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Ryland Hampton, Michael

Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Lessons in the Lutheran Confessions
Pastor Mark Ryman - Luke 24:45–49

From the Confessions: The Defense of the Augsburg Confession

Concerning Justification

That Faith in Christ Justifies

So that no one thinks that we are talking about an idle knowledge of the history, we will first explain how faith is received. Then we will show both that it justifies and how this ought to be understood. Last, we will explain the objections of the adversaries.

In the last chapter of Luke, Christ commands that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name (Luke 24:47). The gospel declares that all people are under sin and are subject to eternal wrath and death, yet for Christ's sake offers the forgiveness of sin and justification. These are received by faith. The preaching of repentance accuses us and frightens consciences with true and severe terrors. Surrounded by these accusations and terrors, hearts must receive consolation. This happens if they believe the promise of Christ, that on account of him we receive the forgiveness of sins. This faith that encourages and comforts despite these fears, receives forgiveness of sins, justifies, and gives life. Indeed, this consolation is a new and spiritual life. These things are plain and clear, can be understood by God-fearing people, and have testimonies of the Church. Yet nowhere can our adversaries say how the Holy Spirit is given. They imagine that the sacraments confer the Holy Spirit ex opere operato, without an upright movement in the recipient, as though the gift of the Holy Spirit were an idle matter.

Pulling It Together

Saving faith does not happen because one performs the right deeds or recites the correct formula or prayer. Nor does it come about all at once. First, the word of God accuses the conscience that it is corrupt. It does not charge us with being a little bit bad, for we are not and that would do us no good. We must be convicted that we are wretched and miserable sinners, sold out to sin. This must seriously concern us; we must be terrified of the consequences of our sin. Next, God's word offers us the consolation of hope, that because Christ offered himself to God as payment for our sin debt, those who believe or have faith in his death and resurrection are forgiven. Last, this faith encourages and comforts people through Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit. So, faith is an active trust in God; it is not doing or reciting religious things by those who believe in the history of Christianity but do not believe in Christ.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for suffering in my place that I too may be raised from the dead to live with and for you. Amen.

Opened Minds

Find the 35 bold words from Luke 24:44-49 (ESV).

E O P E N E D V W S F N S D U
N V R T H I R D C A E M E E U
A C E S I M O R P T L S N H N
M H F R H G I H T A D D D T D
E R F L Y P H I S N D R I O E
J I U N T T R P I E Z O N L R
E S S U Q W H M M L U W G C S
R T R F O R G I V E N E S S T
U E P E C N A T N E P E R Y A
S H O O L L T I V G S I N S N
A P W S C F U L F I L L E D D
L O E O S E S S E N T I W A Y
E R R N A T I O N S P O K E A
M P D L U O H S B E H O L D D
E S I R R E H T A F S E S O M

Then he said to them, “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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

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God Has Gone Up with a Shout

Find the 36 bold words from Psalm 47 (ESV).

S T T H S F P N C E D R O L L
I L S G E E E B O C A J H O J
N Y N O O R O E P G S R U J C
G O V P M G I R T E U D T X H
S J L S N O I T A N B H X H O
K E V E C D H I A C D E G R S
S F X S E Y L O H G U J A E E
J Y E I R E H T A G E G C I T
T N R A B R A H A M D N T G U
S E Z R R G R E A T I H H N O
S D P P N E D L P R R A G S H
Y E N M C N D E P O F L I A S
O D V A U L K I N G K E H L T
U R O O H R A E N X P S A L M
R A S G L F T P L T U B R C F

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah* God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

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