

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."

The Psalm

Psalm 47

Omnes gentes, plaudite

- 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.

Said together:

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.

Second Lesson

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.

Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns

H 483



Gospel Lesson

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.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

Prayers of the People VI

BCP 392

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!



The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*
Offertory

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to thee, who, dead, again dost live;
to God the Father equal praise,
and God the Holy Ghost, we raise.*

from H 193, v. 5

Eucharistic Prayer "B"

BCP 367

- Sanctus* Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S129
- Memorial Acclamation* Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S138
- The Lord's Prayer* Traditional version, found on BCP 364
- Fraction Anthem* H-S 152

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

Bread of the world, in mercy broken H 301
Hail, thou once despised Jesus! H 495
Humble I adore thee H 314

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Crown Him with many crowns* H 494

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*



Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us.

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Dr. and Mrs. James Paine, in memory of their loved ones.

Birthdays This Week: Jay Kephart, Brayden Wimmer, and Barbara Sudduth.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Becky Beckett Macon Clement
Lector Becky Beckett
Chalicians Becky Beckett Jay Kephart
Altar Guild Delia Kersey Linda Thomas

Attendance Last Sunday 52

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes—Wanda Myers—Bonnie Taylor—Joe Sanders—Marlene—Lee Puckett, Sr.—Phyllis & Nelson Walker—Linda—Valerie Mahood—Sierra—Alex B.—Toni R.—Linda Sydeski—Ragen—Jared Cregger—Kerrigan Farmer—Lindsey Parsley—Mike—Daisy Bowman—Ellie Spencer—Sue Godwin—Gary Slater—Kennedy Quillen—Mabeline Robinson

Calendar of Events

Sunday – May 13 Mother's Day
Food Pantry bagging after church
Tuesday – May 15 DOK meeting 10:30
Thursday – May 17 Food Pantry 9-11:00am
Sunday – May 20 Pentecost Sunday
Sunday – May 27 Trinity Sunday with Baptisms

Announcements:

Personal Hygiene Basket: Please feel free to add personal hygiene items in the basket that's been provided for you in the narthex.

Thank you: Kipp Cortez for filling in as our organist today!

Thank you: David Hardin for providing spring flowers out front. They look lovely!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton
Dr. Rob Merritt Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett Junior Warden



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street,
Bluefield, WV 24701-2910
(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield

May 13, 2018

Ascension Sunday

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* H 460

The Service Begins BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis H-S 280

The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP

The Collect *Our collective prayer for 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.