



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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## A Service of Evening Prayer for the Feast of the Ascension

May 13, 2021



### Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

As a sign of love and respect during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We are observing social distancing, mask wearing, and enhanced cleaning protocols. As time and circumstances permit these changes to our worship will be amended. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our prayers joining with yours.

## **Opening Sentences**

*The Officiant says*

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

*Psalm 96:9*

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*People*          Amen.

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*      O God, make speed to save us.

*People*          O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

## O Gracious Light

*Phos hilaron*

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

## The Psalm Appointed

Psalm 47

*Omnes gentes, plaudite*

*The Psalm will be read by whole verse, alternating with the Officiant*

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 by all*

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.

## The Lessons

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Ephesus

*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.

Here ends the Reading.

### The Song of Simeon

*Nunc Dimittis*

*Luke 2:29-32*

*All stand and then say*

Lord, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
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.

### A reading from the Gospel according to 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.

Here ends the Reading.

## **The Homily**

the Rev. David Johnston  
Pastor, Concord UMC  
Athens, WV

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*         And also with you.

*Officiant*     Let us pray.

*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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Suffrages

*Suffrages B*

*The Officiant begins the Suffrages with the People following*

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Margaret, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

### The Collect of the Day

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

### A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

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 Sentences**

*The Officiant then stands and says*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

*Officiant*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13*

*People* Amen.

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### **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Officiant	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
Homilist	the Rev. David Johnston
Organist & Choirmaster	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
Acolyte	Emma Slater
Altar Guild	Patty Richardson     Becky Beckett