

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOUISIANA



ASCENSION SUNDAY
MAY 24, 2020
LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE: *Toccata in C, BWV 564*

Shannon Gallier, St. James, Baton Rouge
Composer: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

The Rev. Canon Shannon Manning, Diocese of Louisiana

GATHERING MUSIC: *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Crispin Schroeder, Christ Church, Covington
Words: Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948); Melody: Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932); Arr: Crispin Schroeder

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Robert Beazley, St. Michael's, Mandeville

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: *Gloria in Excelsis*

Keilor Kastella and Ransom Woodson, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge
The Hymnal 1982 S280; Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Rev. Chris Capaldo, Holy Communion, Plaquemine

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

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.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING: ACTS 1:1-11

Edgar Cage, St. Patrick's, Zachary

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."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER: PSALM 47

*Members of the choir of Trinity Church, New Orleans
Psalm setting composed by Dr. Paul Weber, Trinity Church, New Orleans*

- 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 SECOND READING : EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Julio Figueroa, Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

The St. Margaret's Virtual Choir, Baton Rouge

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah! Hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - - - jah!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53

Deacon Cindy Obier, Baton Rouge Deanery

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Morris Thompson, Jr., Bishop, Diocese of Louisiana

THE NICENE CREED

The Rev. Harry Jenkins, Christ Church, Slidell

**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 worshiped 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cooper, Darla, and Todd Burnett, St. Francis, Denham Springs

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Come, let us pray with thanksgiving to him who ascended with great triumph to God's heavenly kingdom, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, Ascended Lord."

Open our minds to understand the truth of holy scripture, fashioning our lives to proclaim its saving message, and bearing witness to the power of forgiveness and mercy; for this we pray.

Hear us, Ascended Lord.

Send us into places of poverty and despair, that we may feed the hungry, comfort those who are ill, be present to the lonely, offer hope to the downtrodden, and reveal the healing power of the Risen and Ascended Christ; for this we pray.

Hear us, Ascended Lord.

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery; For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

Turn our hearts toward your will, that we may choose new life, receive the grace of your forgiveness, and bear witness to your loving and sacrificial hope; for this we pray.

Hear us, Ascended Lord.

Move the leaders of Church and government to guide us into a simplicity of living, discovering our worth through virtuous living, and leaving behind the false promises of the world's wealth; for this we pray.

Hear us, Ascended Lord.

Give us faith to perceive that Christ dwells with his Church on earth and prepares for us a heavenly mansion, especially remembering today _____ and all who have died; for this we pray.

Hear us, Ascended Lord.

In thanksgiving for the faith of the apostles, whose devotion to Jesus inspires our holy and life-giving commitment to proclaim his message today; for this we pray.
Hear us, Ascended Lord.

With the freedom of an enlightened heart, we join in the inheritance of the saints as we continue our prayers and thanksgivings.

(Special intentions of the congregations, the diocese, and the Anglican Communion are added here.)

Concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The Rev. Jerry Phillips, St. James Place, Baton Rouge

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Rev. Liz Emblar-Beazley, St. Paul's, New Orleans

The Presider says Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. John Kellogg, St. Mark's, Harvey, and Diocese of Louisiana

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider

**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.**

BLESSING

The Rt. Rev. Morris Thompson, Jr., Bishop, Diocese of Louisiana

GOING FORTH HYMN: *If Ye Love Me*

*The Episcopal School of Baton Rouge Virtual Choir
Words: John 14; Music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Joey Clavijo, St. George's, New Orleans

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE: *Fanfare*

Composer: John Cook (1918-1984)

Austin Clark, Grace Church, St. Francisville

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