

Ascension Sunday: A Service of Holy Communion

Leader's Guide

GATHERING

Prelude

Douglas J. Chilton

Welcome

Pastor Dustin

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Jill pours water into the font.

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen. (x3)

A. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! (x3)

P. We gather across all distances and divisions towards the healing waters of your font, O God, amidst a time of crisis. While physically isolated, we are reminded more than ever of our one common destiny. Indeed, as we plunge into your healing waters, we hear the Good News that whatever affects one of us, or one aspect of your good creation, affects us all.

For we know you are the creator of the oceans and rivers, the rains and the snows that bind us all together. We praise you for the Mohawk and the Hudson, and for the waters you provide for us each day. We praise your Spirit, who gathers us to this font. We bless you for your cleansing waters of rebirth, a flood of endless mercy. We thank you for all your children connected across this blue planet.

As we thirst for your presence in the faces of one another, we ask you, almighty Provider, to give us the water we need, and we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font. We beg you heed the cries of all who suffer directly and indirectly from COVID19. As you saved Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, we plead you bring strength to a world who thirsts for you. In the waters of baptism empower us to pour out ourselves for others and to safeguard the waters of your good earth.

To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sea of healing, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery, be all praise and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

A. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

In Christ There Is No East Or West 650 In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



- but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Greeting

P. The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

AM. [Luke writes:] 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 word of the Lord.

A. Thanks be to God.

Musical Meditation

Douglas J. Chilton (roughly 3 minutes)

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

P. The Gospel according to Saint Luke.

A. Glory to you, O Lord.

P. [Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, 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.

P. This, my siblings in Christ, is the Gospel of our Lord.

A. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dustin G. Wright

Hymn of the Day

Blest Be The Tie That Binds 656

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

Prayers of Intercession

P. On this fortieth day of Easter, let us join with Christians around the globe asking God to receive our prayers.

Brief silence.

O God, your might upholds the cosmos, and your mercy sustains the universe. To you, enthroned on high and enthroned in our hearts, we pray:

That the church be enlivened to be the body of Christ,
that bishops and pastors lead with visionary wisdom,
and that all the baptized be witnesses to your mercy and might,

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

That the earth be preserved from disastrous climate,
that the animals and their young be safeguarded,
and that the trees and bushes be protected for their fruit and beauty,

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

That wars between nations and violence within each population cease,
that the leaders of nations enact justice for their people,
and that legislators be granted wisdom for their difficult decisions,

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

That those with coronavirus be healed,
that those facing death be comforted,

that those returning to society remain healthy,
that physicians and nurses be granted endurance,
that hospitals be equipped for their work,
that researchers discover a vaccine,
and that future waves of illness be averted,

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

That the poor be fed and clothed and housed,
that the unemployed find jobs,
and that those we name before you receive health and wholeness. . . .

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

That teachers be preserved in their care of our youth,
That scientists be supported in their exploration of your creation,
And that theologians assist us in receiving the mysteries of the Ascension,

A. We pray to you, good Lord.

That our private sorrows and joys be welcomed by you,

Keep a time of silence.

We pray:

A. We pray to you, good Lord.

That we laud your presence in the word,
that like Queen Helena, whom we commemorate today, we find our life
in the cross of Christ, and that at the end we join with all the saints in your
everlasting kingdom,

A. we pray to you, good Lord.

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Receive our prayers
for the sake of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended for us, and reigning
in your glory now and forever.

A. Amen.

Peace

P. And may the peace of Christ be with you always.

A. And also with you.

P. Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Announcements

Announcements may be shared at this time.

MEAL

Offering

P. At this time, if you'd like to make an online gift using tithe.ly or via mail to Messiah, feel free to do so.

Mr. Doug plays a very brief musical reflection.

Offering Prayer

AM. Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ.

A. Amen.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection

of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, who en - throned forever at

your right hand intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the

res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,

and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

A. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P. God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**A. 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P. Even when we cannot be physically together, we are one in Christ Jesus united around a common table. Indeed, at this table, Jesus gathers us all together: the humble and the proud, the joyful and the grieving, the pious and the profane, those of strong faith and those who only long for faith, to everyone, without exception. Come siblings in faith, and join in Spirit filled community!

Distribution of the Sacrament

At this time, all may share Holy Communion amongst their families. Doug plays a brief musical reflection.

Post Communion Blessing

P. The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen you, and keep you in God's Grace. Amen.

A. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

AM. Let us pray. Life-giving God,
you have fed us with your word,
and our hearts burn within us.
Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.
Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A. Amen.

Blessing

P. May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

A. Amen.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years



for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain:
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life:
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears:



A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness, and ev-'ry gain di-vine.
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
 Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

Dismissal

AM. Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

A. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Douglas J. Chilton