

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Eve of Ascension Day

Officiants: Lynne McSheehy and Lois Freeman

Officiant 1 Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

Officiant 2 Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' *John 17:11*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant 1 Lord, open our lips.

Officiant 2 And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant 1 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Officiant 2 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant 1 Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

Officiant 2 Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Said responsively breaking at the half verse*
1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Officiant 1 Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

Officiant 2 Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Psalm 93

Said responsively breaking at the half verse

The Lord is King; he has put on splendid apparel; *

**the Lord has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.**

He has made the whole world so sure *

that it cannot be moved;

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *

you are from everlasting.

The waters have lifted up, O Lord,

the waters have lifted up their voice; *

the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters,

mightier than the breakers of the sea, *

mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

Your testimonies are very sure, *

**and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.**

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

Officiant 1 **A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians**

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.

Officiant 1 The Word of the Lord

Officiant 2 Thanks be to God

Canticle **A Song of the Spirit** *Revelation 22:12-17*
Said responsively breaking at the half verse

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord, “and bringing my reward with me, *

to give to everyone according to their deeds.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *
the beginning and the end.”**

Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, *

and may enter the city through the gates.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *

with this testimony for all the churches.

“I am the root and the offspring of David, *

I am the bright morning star.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *

“Come!” let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

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.

Officiant 2 **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.

Officiant 2 The Word of the Lord

Officiant 1 Thanks be to God

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant 1

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

Officiant 2 The Lord be with you.

Officiant 1 And also with you.

Officiant 2 Let us pray.

Officiant 2

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.

Suffrages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

Officiant 1 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.

Collect for Ascension

Officiant 2 The heavens are open wide since Jesus our brother, our Redeemer, has entered through the veil. We thank you for his new and living way, by which we join the unnumbered millions who are with you forever. Praise to you our God; you answer prayer. Amen. *Collect for Ascension, A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Officiant 1 O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *A Collect for Peace*

Officiant 2 O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Prayer for Mission*

The Peace and Greetings

Officiant 2 The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Officiant 1 **And also with you**

The worshippers exchange the Peace and greet one another.

One of the Officiants prays Thanksgivings and Intercessions shared in Chat.

Closing Prayers

Officiant 2 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.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant 1 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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant 1 Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant 2 Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Officiant 1 Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*