

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 21, 2023  
ASCENSION

Readings: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

This morning we welcome Geri Furi, organist; Stephanie Dean, soprano.

Organ: "Homage to Frescobaldi" by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

**Hymn 216, Hail Thee, Festival Day! Blest Day That Art Hallowed Forever**

THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**  
God has gone up with a shout; **The Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.**

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.**

**Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

A Reading from the Book of Acts

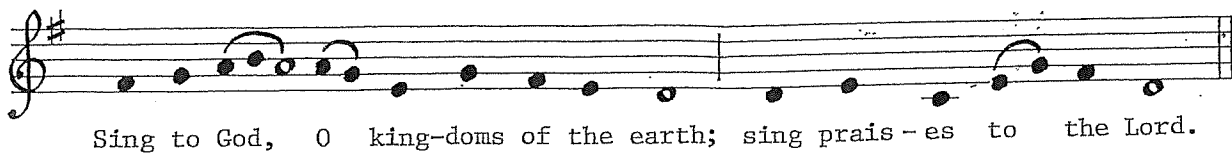
In this reading, we hear of Jesus' promise of empowerment for mission by the Holy Spirit, after which he is envisioned being lifted up into heaven. Although Jesus will one day appear again, his community now has a ministry to bring the good news to the world.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "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." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68 is a psalm of praise to the mighty God, who reigns on high. The cantor sings the refrain; all then sing the refrain; and repeat as indicated.

#### REFRAIN



Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him! Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation! R. O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. R. The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai. You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; you have received gifts even from your enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. R.

#### A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

In this lesson, we learn that when Christians find it necessary to suffer for their faith, they are to know that they are sharing in Christ's sufferings.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. Alleluia, alleluia, etc.

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

### Hymn 483, The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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.

### Prayers of the People

Let us offer our prayers in the Name of Jesus, who dwelt among us, died and rose again for our salvation, and ascended into the heavenly realm, responding, "Hear us, ascended Lord."

*Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. We pray especially for: Jim Veit, Martha Bangs, Mary Greening, Donald Burton, Lori Praenior, Nancy Huckins, Susan Rich, Leanna Vernier, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Allen Berchem.*

*The people are invited to offer in prayer the names of others; or to give thanks for God's gracious gifts.*

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*All persons are invited to share in Christ's Resurrection and to receive the gifts of Christ's Presence in bread and wine. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand supported by the left; the wine by sipping from the cup or by dipping the bread. If you desire a blessing instead of receiving Communion, let the priest know when you come forward. Communion can also be brought to you where you are seated, if that is more convenient; please speak with a greeter.*

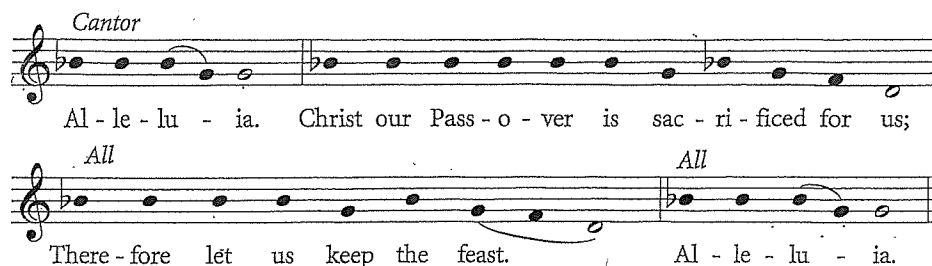
### Offertory Hymn 460, vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the Sceptre, His the Throne

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Glorious God, in Scripture and prophecy you revealed yourself and your love for the world. . . .  
we join with them in singing this hymn of your unending praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ has ascended on high,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*After all have received, please stand and pray together.*

Eternal God; You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Hymn: 214, Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise

Organ: "Vision of the Eternal Church" by Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ  
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236  
313-884-4820 [office@stmichaelsgpw.org](mailto:office@stmichaelsgpw.org) [www.stmichaelsgpw.org](http://www.stmichaelsgpw.org)