

# The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

## Ascension Sunday!

May 24, 2020

10:30am ~ Liturgy of the Word with Amazing Grace ~



*~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~*

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## **SERVICE MINISTERS**

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev'd Tamra Tucker
Musician	Brenda Carter
Choir:	Kyrah Rodriguez
LEM:	Tricia Tyler ( <i>Statement of Faith &amp; Prayers of the People &amp; Dismissal</i> )
Readers:	Margaret Hummel ( <i>reading 1 &amp; Psalm</i> ), Phil Whitbeck ( <i>reading 2</i> ), & Kyrah Rodriguez ( <i>response leader</i> )
Service Welcome:	David Montgomery & The Rev'd. Tamra Tucker
Announcements:	Bernice Cramer
Attendance:	Margaret Hummel

## **SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Happy Birthday to Suzanna Anderson, Bob Radin and Paul Cronin!

Happy Anniversary to Eliza & Craig Blay!



Virtual flowers in loving memory of Liza Meyer.

## **IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

**For the Episcopal Church USA:** Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Alan Gates and Gayle Harris, our Bishops, Grace Church, Lawrence, Esperanza Academy, Lawrence, St. Anne's Church, Lowell, St. John's Church, Lowell and POSP's LEM's, lectors, worship leaders, and pastoral care visitors.

## **PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:**

**May 2020:** James Clark, Jeanne Balcom, Casey Nichols, Esther, Susanna and David Lee, Alice Kast, Margaret Lewis, Michelle Zlomek, Albert Mueller, Elise Ware, Lynda Winkowski, Kathy Brothets, Ed Winkowski, Roger Blake, Deane Buckley, Sebastian Coyle, Maureen Bruce, Jim Mahoney, Hanna Johnson, Joan Musial, and Tommy Foley.

## **STAFF**

Parish Administrator	Carolyn Hoogendoorn – office@parishofstpaul.org
Sexton	Al Totten



## OPENING SENTENCES

*Officiant:* Alleluia! Christ has risen!

*All:* **Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Officiant:* 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.

*All:* **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Sing Hallelujah to the Lord

Bm F#m7 Bm F#m7

1 Sing hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord;  
 2 Lift up your hearts un - to the Lord;  
 3 Christ's re - sur - rec - tion sets us free;  
 4 There - fore we ce - le - brate the feast;

Bm D F#sus4 F#7 Bm F#m/A

sing hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord.  
 lift up your hearts un - to the Lord.  
 Christ's re - sur - rec - tion sets us free. Sing hal-le-lu - jah,  
 there - fore we ce - le - brate the feast.

G D Bm F#m7 Bm (F#m7)

sing hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord.  
 lift up your hearts un - to the Lord.  
 Christ's re - sur - rec - tion sets us free. *Fine*  
 there - fore we cel - e - brate the feast.

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE COLLECT

*Celebrant:* Christ is with you.

*All:* **And also with you**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* **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 loves with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

## THE LESSONS

### THE FIRST READING

**Acts 1:6-14**

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Acts

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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.

*Reader:* Hear What the Spirit is saying to God's people

*All:* **Thanks be to God**

## THE PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

1. Arise, O God, and let your enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate you flee before you.
2. Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at your presence, O God.
3. But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before you;  
let them also be merry and joyful.
4. We sing praises to your holy Name; we exalt the One who rides upon the heavens;  
yours is the Name in which we rejoice!
5. Guardian of orphans, defender of widows,  
God, in your holy habitation!
6. You give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom,  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
7. God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,
8. 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.
9. You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
10. Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
33. Sing to God, O nations of the earth;  
sing praises to our God,
34. Who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who sends forth a voice, a mighty voice.
35. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose strength is in the skies.
36. How wonderful are you in your holy places; you give strength and power to your people;  
blessed be God!

## THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11

*Reader:* A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

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 in so far 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 throughout 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

*Reader:* Hear What the Spirit is saying to God's people

**All: Thanks be to God**

SEQUENCE HYMN

*Glorify Thy Name*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a guitar accompaniment line with chords. The lyrics are: "Yah - weh we love you, we praise you, we a - dore you, glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth. Glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy ( thy name, glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth."

**System 1 (Measures 1-4):** Chords: C, Dm7, G7, F/G G7, C2. Lyrics: Yah - weh we love you, we praise you, we a - dore you.

**System 2 (Measures 5-8):** Chords: C2/E, F, G7sus4, G7, F/A, G1B. Lyrics: glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.

**System 3 (Measures 9-12):** Chords: C2, CMaj7, F, E7sus4, D/F#, E7/G#, Am, C/G. Lyrics: Glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy ( thy name,

**System 4 (Measures 13-16):** Chords: F, G/F, F, Dm/G, Dm7/G, G7, F/C, C. Lyrics: glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

*Officiant:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

*All:* **Glory to you, O Christ**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he 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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And 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.

*Officiant:* The Gospel of Christ

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

The Rev'd. Tamra Tucker

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,  
Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,  
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,  
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,  
we put our trust in God;  
and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves,  
in the service of others,  
to seek justice, and to live in peace;  
to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;  
to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love.  
And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,  
a community of flawed and forgiving disciples,  
for the glory of God alone.

**Amen.**

*Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Community © 2001*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All Sing:                    Here we stand; opening our hearts to you;  
   Hear our prayer, and keep us close.*

*One:* Ascending God, fix our sight this day on the coming of your kingdom. Lift our hearts to enfold all of your creation in our care. Open our hands to include all of your beloved creatures in our mission. Perk our ears to listen to the still small voice that speaks of your dream for this good world.

*All:* **Ascending God, hear our prayer.**

*One:* Creator God, help us to live with reverence and awe for all that you have made. Give us a sense of wonder and respect for every creature and habitat that grace the face of your good earth. And infuse us with a sense of responsibility and desire to care for your creation as we have been cared for by you.

*All:* **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

*One:* Inspiring God, guide your church and all of its people to be faithful witnesses of your Gospel.

*All:* **Inspiring God, hear our prayer**

*One:* God of Power, we pray for those in positions of public trust and leadership, that they may serve justice, and mercy and peace; that they may discern and decide all things in the name of dignity and love.

*All:* **God of Power, hear our prayer.**

*One:* God of Grace, lead us toward truth and reconciliation in all that we undertake. Lead us away from violence and toward the peace that surpasses all understanding.

*All:* **God of Grace, hear our prayer.**

*One:* God of Healing, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit especially those listed on our Parish Prayer List (*read the names*) we lift up these joys, sorrows and intercessions from the heart of this Beloved Community. We pray for all who are captive, all refugees and prisoners around the world; we pray for all who are oppressed and all who are in danger. Grant all who suffer, liberation from their pain and fear and distress.

*All:* **God of Healing, hear our prayer.**

*One:* God of Hope, we pray for all who have returned to you, especially Liza Meyer, for whom today's virtual flowers have been given, for our sister Hope Dauwalter, who left us during this pandemic yet whose bright light is not forgotten, and for all who mourn their loss. And on this Ascension Sunday, we pray that one day we too may follow where our Savior has led, to the banquet that awaits us all in your kingdom of light and peace and love.

*All:* **God of Hope, hear our prayer.**

*One:* And finally, God of Holy Friendship, we thank you for this gathering of our parish community. We are grateful for our parish leadership and for the faithful souls that seek you together. Ignite us with your fire for ministry. Keep us on the path of your imagining. Bless us with the gifts and the strength that we need to live into your will. And continue to show us your way of justice-love.

*All:* **God of Holy Friendship, hear our prayer.**

*All Sing:*                    *Here we stand; opening our hearts to you;  
Hear our prayer, and keep us close.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(We invite you to say whatever version of The Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)*

*Officiant:* As Jesus taught us we now pray:

*All:*            **Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Officiant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*All:*            **And also with you.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Officiant:* Let us pray together.

*All:* **O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the fears that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in the bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and peoples may live in harmony and find that new and resurrected life promised through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

C F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

8 Dm B $\flat$  F/C Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

15 F/A B $\flat$  C7 F B $\flat$  F *Fine*

and m giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

22 B $\flat$  F F/A B $\flat$  C

1 God, re - place, my ston - y heart with a heart that's kind and  
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my goal, my  
 3 May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of ev - ry

Words: Ruth Duck

Music: arr. by Arthur G. Clyde Copyright © text 1996 and arrangement 1997 The Pilgrim Press

J=48

(Continued)

19 Om Om7 Gm/Bb F/C Om

ten - der. All my cold - ness and fear  
sto - ry. In each thought, - word, and deed,  
per - son In the we! - come of Christ,

4 F/C Gm F/A sb DC.

to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

## DISMISSAL

*Minister:* Let us live in peace and love each other in the name of the risen Christ.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

*All:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**



If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

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Co-Warden  
Treasurer  
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