

Seventh Sunday after Easter

Ascension of the Lord

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 - 10:30 am, May 21, 2023



St. Mark's Episcopal Anglican Church

Fairland Parish

Rev. Dr. Christopher I. Wilkins, Rector

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

Seventh Sunday after Easter/Ascension of the Lord

The People stand.

Prelude

The Celebrant says.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Please rise. Our worship begins with [the opening hymn].

The Altar party processes as the Choristers lead the People in singing

Opening Hymn:

Hymn #214 vss. 1,2,4

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!
4. Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!

there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

Opening Rites and the Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Celebrant: 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: *Serve the Lord with gladness*

LEVAS 278

***Please see musical insert. The Congregation will sing the refrain*

“Serve the Lord with gladness, Alleluia”

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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 First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: *Dominus regnavit*

Psalm 93

The Choristers will chant the Psalm.

¹ The LORD is King;
he has put on splendid apparel; *
the LORD has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.

² He has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;

³ Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.

⁴ The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁵ Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

⁶ Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
for ever and for evermore.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *O Lord Most High, eternal King* **Hymn # 221**

1. O Lord most high, eternal King,
by thee redeemed thy praise we sing;
The bonds of death are burst by thee,
and grace has won the victory.

2. Ascending to the Father's throne
thou claim'st the kingdom as thine own;
and angels wonder when they see
how changed is our humanity.

3. Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,
as thou wilt be our great reward;
let all our glory be in thee
both now and through eternity.

4. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to thee let earth accord, who
art, while endless ages run, with
Father and with Spirit, One. Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

⁴⁴Then he said to 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: Lifted Up

The LEM leads the People as they say

The Creed

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
human.
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: An Ascension Litany

The Intercessor says

A Litany for the Ascension.

The Intercessor prays the litany.

Lord, you go before us to prepare a place for us, have mercy upon us.

Lord, you will come again in glory to judge the world, have mercy upon us.

Lord, you receive your own to yourself, that we may be where you are, have mercy upon us.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension, good Lord, deliver us.

By your merciful intercession, good Lord, deliver us.

By your majesty and triumph, good Lord, deliver us.

We, remaining on earth, Lord, pray these things in your name.

That we may set our hearts on things above, hear us, good Lord.

That we may be holy and blameless before you, hear us, good Lord.

That now, when the world sees you no more, they may hear you in our words and see you in our deeds, hear us, good Lord.

That we may keep your commandments and love one another, hear us, good Lord.

That you would abide with us in comfort and mercy, hear us, good Lord.

That the Spirit of Truth, aflame in our hearts, may fill us with joys that none can take from us, hear us, good Lord.

We, remaining on earth, Lord, pray these things in your name.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

The People stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you,

People: And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in silence and at physical distance.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, holy Lord, giver of life and light, through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who, after his resurrection, appeared openly to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, we might be also, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and with all the host of heaven, who forever sing this hymn, to the glory of your Name,

Sanctus

Hymnal #S129

The Choristers lead the People as they sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, maker of all things, judge of all who live. You made us in your image and to live in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care and bade us be faithful stewards of its bounty.

But we honored not your gifts, misused your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us. You called us into your promise, delivered us from bondage, sustained us in the wild, and sent prophets to bid us repent and return.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made human in Christ Jesus, to live as one of us, and to reveal your glory. Giving himself up to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil and opened for us the way of everlasting life.

On the night before he died, as he sat at table with his friends, Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread. Giving thanks to you, he broke it, and shared it with them, saying:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” †

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me.” †

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The LEM leads the People as they say:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

In that mystery we offer to you this bread and this wine, fruit of the vine and the work of human hands. Send your Spirit upon them that they become for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. May we who share them be filled with that Holy Spirit to live as Christ's Body in the world. May we come to the everlasting heritage of your children, and with the apostles and martyrs and all your saints, enter into the joys of your salvation.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, now and forever. *AMEN.* ††

Now, as Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

The Choristers lead the People as they say:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and then keeps a period of silence.

The Fraction Anthem:

Hymnal #S154

The Choristers lead the People as they sing:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn:

Hymn #460 vss. 1-4

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

1. Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2. Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,
thou on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

The People consume their gifts. After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. The Celebrant prays

Eternal God, holy Lord, 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.

Announcements

Announcements, if any, are made here.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Celebrant says

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord be with you, this day and always, and give you peace.

Withdrawal Hymn:

Hymn #215

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

1. See the Conqueror mounts in triumph;
see the King in royal state,
riding on the clouds, his chariot,
to his heavenly palace gate!
Hark! the choirs of angel voices
joyful alleluias sing,
and the portals high are lifted
to receive their heavenly King.

2. He who on the cross did suffer,
he who from the grave arose,
he has vanquished sin and Satan;

he by death has spoiled his foes.
While he lifts his hands in blessing,
he is parted from his friends;
while their eager eyes behold him,
he upon the clouds ascends.

3. Thou has raised our human nature
on the clouds to God's right hand;
there we sit in heavenly places,
there with thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne;
mighty Lord, in thine ascension
we by faith behold our own.

The Altar Party withdraws.

The LEM says

Let us go forth, in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Celebrant, the LEM, and the People depart, maintaining physical distance.

Postlude

Please join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour and Fellowship.

**The Flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God by
Claude and Charlene Langley in Thanksgiving for their daughter,
Sacha-Marie's birthday.**

*Our services and events may be live-streamed and/or recorded. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for live streaming, promotional purposes, advertising, inclusion on web sites, and/or any other purpose by St. Mark's Episcopal Church. *

If you would prefer not to be shown on camera, please sit on the pulpit side of the nave, behind the videographers.

Readers and Intercessor

1st Reader: Charlene Langley

2nd Reader: Chuck Smith

Intercessor: Gail Soulea

St. Mark's Announcements

1. **“Scripture or Reason, I am Sure, Do Not Anywhere Say So:”** *Reading Scripture and Finding Freedom with John Locke*. Sunday, 9:05-10:15am, Parish Hall and via Zoom. Please join us for this critical study of Locke’s use of scripture and reason in laying political and religious foundations for natural rights, democracy, and freedom. No prior reading required. Please see Rev. Wilkins for more information.
2. **Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Please let the Parish Administrator know if you would like to attend this meeting via Zoom.
3. **At-Home Covid-19 Self-Test kits** are available, free of charge, in the church office. There are 2 kits in each box; we will provide one box per person. Please contact Janis Smith, Parish Administrator, or Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary, if you would like a box of test kits. Contact number: 301-622-5860.
4. **Coffee Hour Hosting:** Please consider helping to host the *Coffee Hour* following the 10:30 service. Help is needed with setup, cleanup, and purchasing. There is a sign-up sheet located on the wall beside the coffee pot in the Parish Hall. Instructions on what a host needs to do may be found on the clipboard. We give thanks for all those who help with this ministry of hospitality.
5. **Altar Flowers:** Beginning with Easter and through the season of Epiphany, you may sponsor the Altar Flowers for any Sunday or major feast day in memory of your loved ones, a birthday, an anniversary, or any other suitable occasion – or even just because. The sign-up book with details is in the church office or, on Sundays, in the narthex (at the back of the church). Please contact the office for more information or to support this part of our worship ministry.

6. **Bag Lunches for Elizabeth House:** On the 3rd Sunday of each month, following the 8:00am service, St. Mark's Outreach ministry makes bag lunches for those in need at Elizabeth House. St. Mark's is looking for volunteers to help make these bag lunches. Please contact Linda Toran or the office if you would like to volunteer.

7. **"Good morning" Greeters:** As a welcoming congregation that is now back to in-person worship, we'd like to return to having greeters at the sanctuary doors on Sunday mornings. The main purpose will be to say "Good Morning" to all who enter and point out the location of the bulletins. This would be a separate function from the Usher. If anyone is interested in volunteering, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall near the coffee machine.

Please check your e-letters and the website for the most up-to-date information.

Save the Date

Sunday, June 11, 2023: Melva DiGirolamo's 100th Birthday Celebration!

More information to follow in the upcoming weeks.

Saturday, June 24, 1:00pm - 4:00pm: Seventh Annual Rockville Pride!

In-Person Event at the Rockville Town Square, free and open to all ages.

Featuring: Live performances. Information booths and dialogue. Arts and crafts/children's activities.

Sunday, July 9-12, 2023: IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE:

A Festival for the Jesus Movement

The churchwide festival takes place in Baltimore, Maryland, and features revival worship and plenary sessions, in addition to workshops.

Sunday July 30, 2023: Annual Parish Potluck Picnic

Following the 10:30am service.

Please invite your family and friends to come out for a day of good food, fun activities, and fellowship. The Fellowship Committee would also like this event to be a reunion. So, please encourage your children and grandchildren to come participate. More information to follow.

St. Mark's Mission

- ❖ We will deepen our faith by adopting more liturgical options to reach out into the community.

- ❖ We will extend our outreach by getting more people involved in and reaching more people through community involvement.
- ❖ We will embrace evangelism by choosing to be a church that reaches out to our community and spread the good news of Christ.
- ❖ We will increase our participation by being committed to our church through regular attendance, and giving of our resources of time, talent, and treasure.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fairland, MD

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Parish Office hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by appointment.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Wilkins, Rector

rector@stmarks-silverspring.org * Cell: 301-768-3075 * 301-622-5860 ext. 105

Janis Smith, Parish Administrator

administrator@stmarks-silverspring.org * 301-622-5860 ext. 104

Don Hague, Director of Music

Keira Vargas, Parish Secretary

Pamela Gibson, Senior Warden

Rosanne Tingley, Junior Warden

For information about St. Mark's, please visit our website:

www.stmarksfairland.org * www.stmarks-silverspring.org

We hope that today's service has been a blessing to you.

We are here to serve you, and hope to see you again.

Please feel free to call us, email us, or visit us online.

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