



The Ascension of Christ

21 May 2020 @ 9:30 AM

Grace Episcopal Church
Randolph, New York

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**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. Alleluia.**

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

**God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.**



Ever-living God,
your eternal Christ once dwelt on earth,
 confined by time and space.
Give us faith to discern in every time and place
 the presence among us
 of him who is head over all things and fills all,
even Jesus Christ our ascended Lord. Amen.

THE READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 24:44-53 [NRSV]

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1:1-11 [NRSV]

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.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

The Rev Tom Broad

ANTHEM

The Ascension of Jesus

Rosary Musical "GLORY"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come, let us pray with thanksgiving to him who ascended with great triumph to God's heavenly kingdom, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, ascended Lord."

Open our minds to understand the truth of holy scripture, fashioning our lives to proclaim its saving message, and bearing witness to the power of forgiveness and mercy; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Send us into places of poverty and despair, that we may feed the hungry, comfort those who are ill, be present to the lonely, offer hope to the downtrodden, and reveal the healing power of the Risen and Ascended Christ; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Turn our hearts toward your will, that we may choose new life, receive the grace of your forgiveness, and bear witness to your loving and sacrificial hope; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Move the leaders of Church and government to guide us into a simplicity of living, discovering our worth through virtuous living, and leaving behind the false promises of the world's wealth; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Give us faith to perceive that Christ dwells with his Church on earth and prepares for us a heavenly mansion, remembering today all who have died; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

In thanksgiving for the faith of the apostles, whose devotion to Jesus inspires our holy and life-giving commitment to proclaim his message today; for this we pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

With the freedom of an enlightened heart, we join in the inheritance of the saints as we continue our prayer and thanksgivings.

You are invited to add your prayers of special intention.

COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION
(Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23)

Go out into the world.

and in your words and in your lives
bear witness to the Christ who has ascended
to be everywhere present.

And as you come to know him,

may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you,
and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
in the name of Christ. Amen.



Find details for connecting to our Sunday worship on our website
<https://GraceChurchRandolph.org/>

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover Artwork

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Call to Worship (based on Psalm 47)

DesperatePreacher.com

Rosary Musical "GLORY" The Ascension of Jesus

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Prayers of the People

Planning for Rites and Rituals: Ascension Day
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Liturgy of the Office, Psalm, Collects and Prayers

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Commission & Benediction

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Grace Episcopal Church

Founded 1859 + Ministering at this location since 1879

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The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sean Rowe, *Bishop*
The Very Rev. Thomas M. Broad, *Rector*
Audrey Wicks & Yvonne Carlson, *Wardens*

Live, Serve, Praise Christ through Grace
