

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

May 16, 2021

Ascension of Our Lord Sunday

Pastor K. Russell Crouthamel

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Lay Reader: Amy Hagenbuch

If remaining in your car, please tune to 99.3 FM

Please take time during the prelude to prepare your heart and mind for worship

**Indicates Congregational Standing*

PRELUDE

At the Name of Jesus

Michael Bedford / R. V. Williams

WELCOME

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, Risen Christ
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

393

v.1: A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God. R.

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

v.2: The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia! Alleluia! and with his faithful foll'wers see, their Lord ascend in majesty. R..

v.3: To whom the shining angels cry "why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia! Alleluia! "This is the Savior!" thus they say, "this is his glorious triumph day!" R.

v.4: "You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia! "Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty." R.

v.5: O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one. R.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1: 1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After 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. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.

(please join in reading the psalm responsively)

PSALM: Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

**²For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;
**⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

**⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1: 15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Luke 24: 44-53**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.

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

SERMON

Pastor Russ Crouthamel

v.1: Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn; Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

v.2: Speak up, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame; as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.

v.3: Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

v.4: Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain; stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

v.5: Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God.

NICENE 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those in authority the spirit of your love, so that all who are hungry and poor receive food and resources, and all people flourish and live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You heal those who are sick and lift up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of those hurting or struggling in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families especially **Buddy, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, John, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June, Mary Jane and Charlene.** Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world. Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ. We remember saints in our lives and in our community. Thank you for their gifts among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus

Michael Bedford

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us –

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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music during distribution:

Beautiful Savior

Robert A. Hobby

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us into children of God through the resurrection of God's Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God's blessing.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C: Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

O Christ, Our Hope

604

v.1: O Christ our hope, our hearts desire, creation's mighty Lord, redeemer of the fallen world by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured.

v.2: How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin, and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within; to make us clean within.

v.3: But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid; you reign above at God's right hand, in robes of light arrayed, in robes of light arrayed.

v.4: Oh let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride, that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.

v.5: All praise to you, ascended Lord, all glory ever be to Father, Son and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity.

DISMISSAL:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Toccata in A Minor

Jan Pieter Sweelinck

We welcome everyone to worship on this Ascension of Our Lord Sunday. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians. If you would like more information on baptism, Pastor Russ would love to speak with you!

It is our plan to hold worship outdoors in the courtyard and/or parking lot for now. It is our wish that it won't be too long before we can gather indoors again. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

In order to ensure the least possible risk of covid transmission during these courtyard gatherings, we ask that singing only be done by the song leader. Please maintain a safe distance from each other. Masks are required. Thank you for helping us all stay safe and well!

CALENDAR NOTES

Monday, May 17 Courtyard Office – 9 AM to 11AM
Worship Committee – 6:30PM

Worship Committee members: Monday's meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room. A Zoom link will also be set up to accommodate those who cannot attend in person. The link will be sent out via email.

Due to a previous appointment, the Tuesday afternoon courtyard office hours will not be held this week.

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday May 29 Youth Outreach Car Wash 10AM to 1PM
Friday, June 11 Friday Fun Night – 6PM to 8PM

More information on the car wash can be found on the back page of this bulletin. Fun Night activities will be posted next week.

COURTYARD OFFICE HOURS

Come visit, pray together, share Holy Communion with him, or just say hello! Pastor Russ will keep the courtyard office hours listed in calendar notes at least throughout the summer, and as far into the fall as is possible before it gets too cold. No appointments needed. Just come and say Hi!

If you'd like to meet with Pastor Russ at another time (whether indoors or outside), send him an email at pastor@stmarkspennsburg.com.

CEMETERY NEWS

The cemetery has an open position for part-time work. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Schultz at 610-462-8284 or call the church office.

The Cemetery Committee would like to remind you that planting is not allowed in the cemetery. If you have planted flowers, please arrange to remove them. Plantings make it difficult for cemetery upkeep. Thanks for your help with this.

OTHER NEWS

The link for viewing our live service over the internet is on our website. For listening to the service from our parking lot, please tune your car radio to 99.3 FM.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Buddy Allen, Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Marilyn Donis, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Charlie Greulich, Marie Grubb, John Gruver, David Haines, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Steve Law, Barbara Lehmann, Pat Matthews, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, Barbara Opachinski, Lenny Rafalko, June Reigner, Mary Jane Schaeffer and Charlene Wilson.

Please contact the church office with changes. Thank you.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK:

Mon: Psalm 115; Exodus 28:29-38; Philippians 1:3-11

Tues: Titus 1:1-9; Numbers 8:5-22

Wed: John 16:16-24; Ezra 9:5-15

Thur: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7;
1 Corinthians 15: 42b-49

Fri: 1 Corinthians 15 50-57; Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37-1-13

Sat: Romans 8:14-17, 22-27; Exodus 19:1-9; John 7:37-39

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St. Mark's Youth Outreach

Raising For A Reason



The Youth Outreach of St. Marks has come together to plan a car wash service (by donation).

We will be holding it on Saturday, May 29th (Raindate is Monday, May 31st) from 10am-1pm. CDC Guidelines WILL be followed (That means wearing a mask and keeping a six-foot distance). This car wash will be done in the church's parking lot.

So COME ON DOWN!

Located at: St. Mark's, 81 N. Main, Pennsburg, parking lot