



## Ascension Day

May 13, 2021

### WELCOME

to the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

#### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God  
with our whole heart, mind, and soul,  
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

#### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Cadillac, MI

St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Cadillac  
strives to live out the Great Commandment:  
To love the Lord  
with all our heart, soul, and mind  
and to love our neighbors as ourselves

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.  
If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home, we'd love to get to know you.

## EVENING PRAYER, ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

### Opening Sentence and Versicle

Officiant If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Officiant O God, be not far from us.

**People Come quickly to help us, O God.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### The Invitatory and Psalter

**All Alleluia. Christ is risen. O come let us worship. Alleluia.**

**Light of the world, in grace and beauty, mirror of God's eternal face,  
transparent flame of love's free duty, you bring salvation to our race.**

**Now, as we see the lights of evening, we raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
Worthy are you of endless blessing, sun of our night, lamp of our days.**

**Alleluia. Christ is risen. O come let us worship. Alleluia.**

### Psalm 93

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 Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

**Acts 1:1-11**

Reader      A Reading from the book of Acts.

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."

Reader      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People      Thanks be to God.**

### **Response**

**A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother, *Isaiah 66:10-14***

**Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her all you who love her,  
Rejoice, rejoice with her, all you who mourn over her,  
That you may drink deeply with delight from her comforting breast.  
For thus says our God, "I will extend peace to her like a river,  
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.  
"You shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and you shall nestle in her lap.  
"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.  
"You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice,  
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields."**

## **The Second Lesson**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Reader** A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Response**

**A Song of Our Adoption, *Ephesians 1:3-10***

**Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,  
that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,  
according to the good pleasure of your will,  
To the praise of your glorious grace, that you have freely given us in the Beloved.  
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of our sins,  
According to the riches of your grace which you have lavished upon us.  
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, the mystery of your will,  
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ,  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
To gather together all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.**

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 24:44-53**

**Reading** A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## **Response**

**A Song of the Spirit, Revelation 22:12-17**

**"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord,  
"and bringing my reward with me,  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."**

**Blessed are those who do God's commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life,  
and may enter the city through the gates.**

**"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you,  
with this testimony for all the churches.**

**"I am the root and the offspring of David,  
I am the bright morning star."**

**"Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride;**

**"Come!" let each hearer reply!**

**Come forward, you who are thirsty,  
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.**

## **The Homily**

## 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

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant 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.**

## Suffrages B

Officiant That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

People **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

**People We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**People We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**People We entreat you, O Lord.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Officiant 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.**

### **Prayer for Mission**

Officiant O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord

**People Thanks be to God, Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May the one who goes from our sight prepare a place for all creation in the wideness of his grace and bring the powers of every quarter to worship at his wounded feet; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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