Worship May 24, 2020 - Ascension of Our Lord

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus. We find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the beloved community in the Spirit. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Prelude
Andante from Viola da Gamba Sonata No. 1 - J.S. Bach

Welcome
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We begin in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit – one God.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray:
Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Acts 1:1-11

[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. 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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thank be to God.

Anthem
Give Me Jesus

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Sermon
Pr. Pam Voves

Moment of Reflection
Prayers

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of new life, we are grateful for so many things this day especially:

● the gift of rain and sun which nurtures your creation to grow and flourish
● the gift of relationships with coworkers, friends, and family
● the gift of community organizations like Childcare Network of Evanston and the wider work of Style for Stroke.

For what else are we grateful: (pause)
Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

God of compassion, heal this hurting world. We pray for all those who are ill, those who grieve, and those who feel no hope. Abide with us. We pray for all the healers and helpers who are risk their own health to care for others.

We lift up all those now who are on our hearts who are in need of healing or your loving embrace: (pause)
Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

God we are grateful for the gift of your Son for the whole world. The powers of sin and death have been defeated by you. Help us to live our lives in loving response to you and witness to the ends of the earth.
We ask all this in your name.
Amen

Apostles Creed

We profess the faith of the Christian church.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Offering  
Thank you for the offering that you send in each week either through the mail or simple giving. Thank you also to those who have donated through the link on our website home age.

Our Journey of Generosity

Peace  
The Peace of Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.

Eucharistic Prayer  
We know that God comes to each of us where we are through creation, the Body of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Let us pray:  

It is 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 had brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth and sea and all their creatures, and the with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name.

We pray the prayer that 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.  
Forgive us our trespasses and 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 glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.
**Sending**

God, we give you thanks for refreshing us with your Spirit through this worship. Send us out to feed the hungry, show compassion to those who mourn and live in harmony with all your creation.

In the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in Peace. Christ in Risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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**Sending Hymn**

**Crown Him with Many Crowns**

Thank you to our worship leaders with Pr. Pam: Kurt, Diane, and Nick.