

Morning Prayer

May 29, 2022

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz0>

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Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Easter 7C: The Sunday after Ascension Day

Prelude

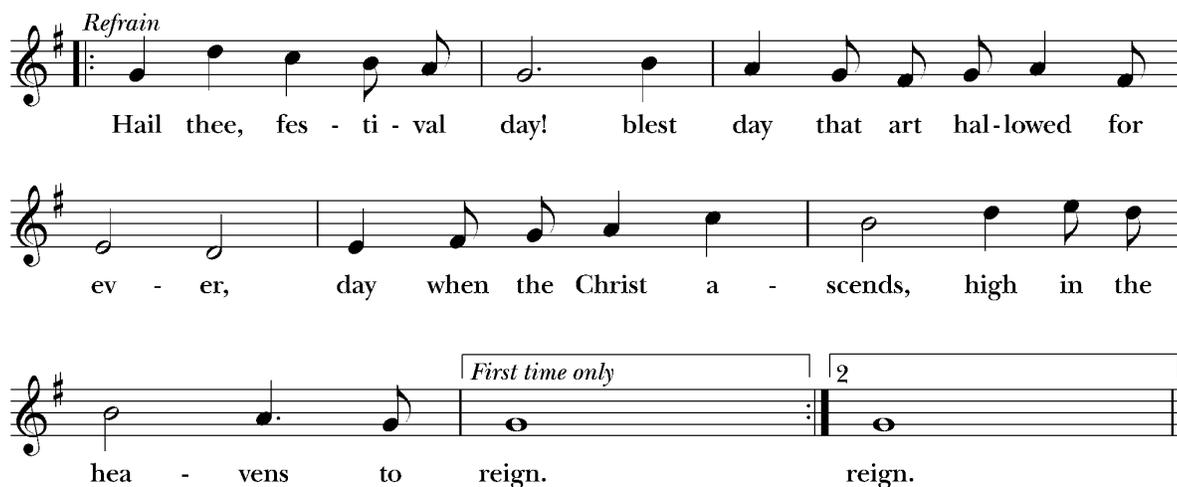
All stand as they are able.

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 216

Hail thee, festival day!

Refrain



Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for
ev - er, day when the Christ a - scends, high in the
hea - vens to reign. reign.

Verses 1 and 3:



1 He who was nailed to the cross is Lord and the
3 God the Cre - a - tor, the Lord who rul - est the
ru - ler of na - ture; all things cre -
earth and the hea - vens, guard us from
a - ted on earth sing to the glo - ry of God:
harm with - out, cleanse us from e - vil with - in.

Verses 2 and 4....

Verses 2 and 4:

2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
 4 Je - sus the health of the world, en - light - en our

glo - ry of blos - som; hea - ven her gates un -
 minds, thou Re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -

bars, fling - ing her in - crease of light:
 preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God:

Repeat Refrain

Opening Sentence

The Presider says

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of the Holy One, to set forth God’s praise, to hear God’s holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God’s infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Presider and People

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Presider says

Fear not, brothers and sisters: God, who is full of grace and abounding in steadfast love, meets us in our sin and transforms us for God's glory and the healing of God's world. In the name of the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven; be now at peace. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Presider and People

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.

Alleluia. Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven:
Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Invitatory

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,

**Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.

**The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

**Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

**For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!**

Psalm 47

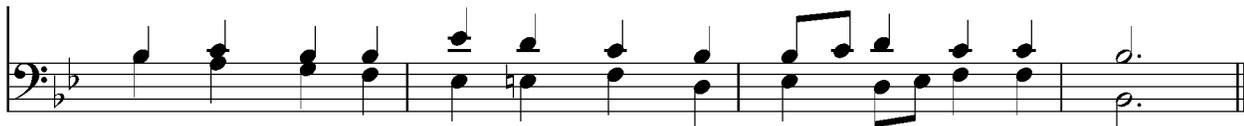
Tune: Hymnal 551



1. All peo- ples, clap your hands, and shout with joy and sing; the
 2. God brings the na- tions down and peo- ples in our sight, and
 3. God has gone up on high with shout and trum- pet's voice; sing
 4. For God rules o- ver all; sing praise with all your skill. The
 5. The no- bles of the earth are joined with Abra- ham's seed; the



Lord Most High is to be feared; God is the earth's great King!
 choo- ses our in- her- i- tance; God's love is Ja- cob's might.
 praise to God the Ho- ly One; sing prai- ses and re- joice!
 Ho- ly One is on the throne and rules all na- tions still.
 ru- lers of the world are God's, and God is praised in- deed!



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.

All sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated.

An Ascensiontide Litany *The mystery of Christ*

Reader Christ was baptized as one of us, but he destroyed sins as God.

People **He was tempted as a human, but he conquered as God. He wants us to rejoice, for he has overcome the world.**

Reader He hungered, but he fed thousands. He is the living bread that comes down from heaven.

People **He thirsted, but he cried, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink. He promised that fountains would flow for those who believe.**

Reader He was wearied, but he is the rest of those who are weary and heavy-laden.

People **The demons acknowledge him, but he drives them out. He plunges into the sea the legions of foul spirits and sees the prince of demons falling like lightning.**

Reader He prays, but he hears prayers.

People **He weeps, but he makes tears to cease.**

Reader He asks where Lazarus was laid, because he was human; but he raises Lazarus, because he was God.

People **He is sold, and very cheap —for only thirty pieces of silver; but he redeems the world at a great price — the cost of his own blood.**

Reader As sheep he is led to the slaughter, but he is the Shepherd of Israel—and now of the whole world.

People **He is bruised and wounded, but he heals every disease and infirmity.**

Reader He is lifted up and nailed to the tree, but he restores us by the tree of life.

People **He lays down his life, but he has the power to take it up again.**

Reader He dies, but he gives life; and by his death he destroys death.

People **He is buried, but he rises again.**

Reader He descends into hell, but he raises souls from death.

People **He ascends to heaven, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. Amen.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

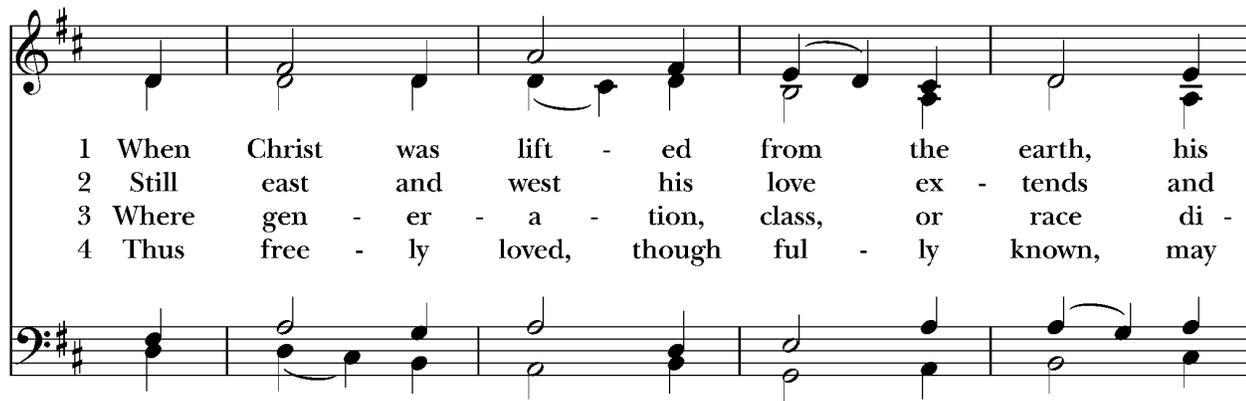
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Hymn

Hymnal 603

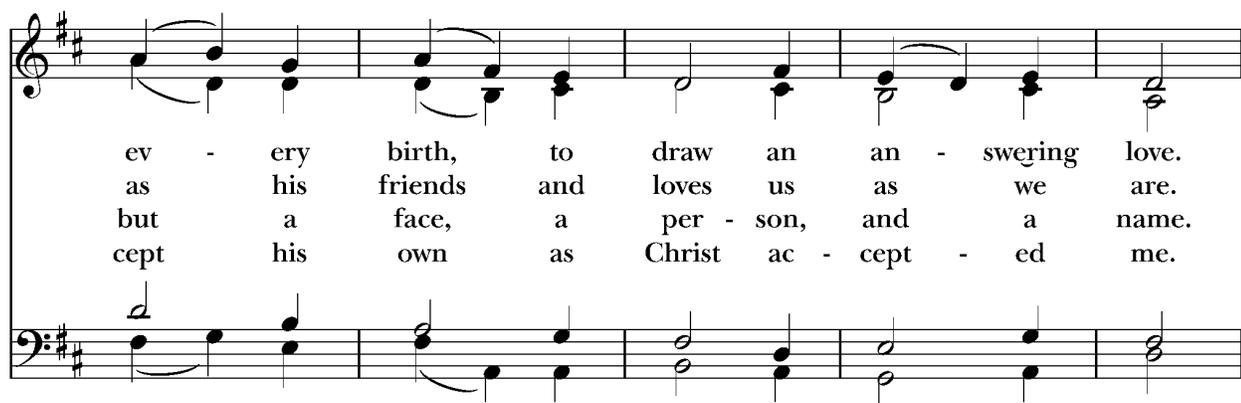
When Christ was lifted from the earth



1 When Christ was lifted from the earth, his
2 Still east and west his love extends and
3 Where generation, class, or race diminish
4 Thus freely loved, though fully known, may



arms stretched out above through every culture,
al-ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
vide us to our shame, he sees not labels
I in Christ be free to welcome and ac-



ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
as his friends and loves us as we are.
but a face, a per - son, and a name.
cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

All sit.

Third Reading

Luke 24:44-53

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

⁴⁴[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.”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.



Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

All stand as they are able.

The Apostles' Creed

The Presider and the People

**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.**

All remain standing as they are able.

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider and the People

Our Father in heaven,
**hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

- V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
- V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
- V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
- V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
- V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
- V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

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.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Presider Friends, take heart: the presence of the Risen Christ is filling this place even as we pray. So let us boldly offer our prayers, saying, “Enlighten our hearts; open our eyes.”

Intercessor Great God of Promise, you have blessed your Church with the presence of your Holy Spirit. Guide us as we go out to share the Good News. Bless us, and our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at St Luke’s, Ypsilanti, and Church of the Annunciation, Santiago, in the Dominican Republic; those in The Church of South India (United), and for all the members of Christ’s body. Abide with us forever, even to the end of the ages. Enlighten our hearts; **open our eyes.**

Silence is kept

Holy One, you have exalted your Son Jesus far above every earthly ruler and authority. May all things come under his gracious dominion. We pray that the violence and division of this world might be transformed by the power of Christ’s love. Enlighten our hearts; **open our eyes.**

Silence is kept

Creator God, give us ears to hear your voice in the crashing of the waves. Give us eyes to see your Spirit dance on the face of the deep. Enlighten our hearts; **open our eyes.**

Silence is kept

O God, you promise to be with us always and everywhere: speak to our lonely hearts; assure us with your presence. And then, Lord Christ, come to us again as you promised. Enlighten our hearts; **open our eyes.**

Silence is kept

O God from whom all good proceeds: you bless the earth to bring forth her increase. Guide all your people to honor you by caring for your creation. We thank you for [_____ and for] all the blessings of this life.

Merciful God, your power is immeasurably great: heal those who are sick; fill the despairing with hope; and lift up the lowly. We pray for [_____, and] all whom we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Mighty God, you have opened the door to new and unending life through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus: Lift the dying and the dead into your holy presence and grant them peace. We pray for [_____, and] all whom we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Loving God, Jesus gathered your little ones in his arms and blessed them. Have pity on those who mourn innocents slaughtered by the violence of our fallen world. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in our pain, bring your comfort. Give us resolve to be agents of change and, in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life. Enlighten our hearts; **open our eyes.**

Silence is kept

Presider We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them:

Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Tune: Hymnal 625

Rejoice! The Lord is King!

Re- joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a- dore! Mor-
The Lord the Sa- vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when
His king- dom can- not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
Re- joice in glor- ious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and

-tals, give thanks and sing, and tri-umph ev- er- more. Lift up your
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a- bove. Lift up your
 keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given. Lift up your
 take his ser-vants up to their e- ter- nal home. Lift up your

heart! Lift up your voice! Re- joice! A- gain I say, re- joice!

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive is June 26**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Coffee Hour sign-up sheet for June is available in the church hall. *Please sign up* to

bring *simple* food and/or to clean up after. If you have questions, please contact [Kitty](#).

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Upcoming Commemorations

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|------|----|---|
| May | 30 | Joan of Arc: Mystic and Soldier, 1431 |
| | 31 | The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| June | 1 | Justin, Martyr, 167 |
| | 2 | The Martyrs of Lyons, 177 |
| | 3 | The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 |
| | 4 | John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli), Bishop and Church Reformer, 1963 |

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May 29, 2022 – Easter 7C

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17:20-26

This set of readings is the one appointed for Easter 7C. In today's service, we read the lessons appointed for Ascension Day, to celebrate this day intentionally. We hope that you will be blessed by reading these readings also, and pondering the questions asked in the study.

Acts 16:16–34

It is only after the apostles are thrown in jail that God rescues them with a dramatic earthquake. Why does God wait to free them until after they are beaten and persecuted? Why not save them before the trouble? Sometimes God doesn't intervene on our timeline or in the way that we think would be best for us. But instead of being frustrated or afraid, Paul and Silas continue to trust in God's faithfulness.

This passage is hugely dramatic. The apostles are flogged and then put in the innermost cell with their feet bound. Their prospects look bleak. Yet despite their wounds, even at midnight they are still praying and singing to God. Their faith is evident to all those around them. Because they're together, they're able to support each other until God makes a way.

The jailer and his entire family converting in the face of God's power is an example of all things working together for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28). God transforms even this enormous hardship into something beautiful.

- When has God's timeline been different than what you might have chosen for yourself, and what was the result?
- Who can you rely on to support you when things look bleak?
- Why is it important that not only the jailer but his entire household becomes believers?

Psalm 97

All the world recognizes God's greatness: the clouds and the darkness, the lightning and the fire, the mountains and the heavens. What response could we have to such immense scale other than wonder? The psalmist draws on our senses to convey something incomprehensible to our limited understanding: God's greatness. To us, mountains seem immense and permanent, but even they melt in God's presence. The throne represents the awe of God's power, but it could also make us believe there is distance between creation and its all-powerful creator. This authority can seem overwhelming, so the psalm reminds us of God's love for the righteous.

- How can we appreciate God's greatness while also seeking closeness with God?

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

These are the final words of Revelation – and the Bible. John reminds us that God is the Alpha and the Omega. This teaches us something about the story of the created world, but it also teaches us about ourselves personally. We, too, begin and end our earthly lives in God. We have individual identities, of course, but our deepest identity is that we are children of God. When we get lost on the way, remembering our end can reorient us. Even if God doesn't always give us a roadmap, we know in which direction to point.

The book concludes with a promise: Jesus, the descendant of David and the root of the tree, will return to open the city gates for us. Those who are ready "will have the right to the tree of life" (22:14). Just as the tree of life was the site of our downfall in Genesis, here it is a feature of our new life with God.

- What kind of experiences can make us forget that our identities are based in God?
- Why does the "tree of life" reappear here at the end of the Bible?

John 17:20–26

Frequently in the Gospels, we see Jesus teaching, traveling, and performing miracles. When he prays, he goes off by himself and we tend not to actually hear his prayers in the narrative. Here, we see Jesus petitioning God: please let your love be known to my disciples. By offering this prayer as a pattern we can imitate, Jesus shows us that we can and should ask God for help. He uses the phrase, "I desire," to ask for what he wants.

What Jesus wants is for us to experience the closeness with God that he knows so deeply. He knows that human beings need more than anything to understand our dependence on God. When we lose sight of that, we forget ourselves. How do we connect to God and open our hearts? We need to realize that we are one with Jesus, with other people, and with God. With his prayer, Jesus gives us an insight that erases the perceived distance in today's psalm. That is, while God is so expansive that we need figurative language to try to understand, at the same time, God is someone that Jesus knows intimately. Through the way he lives his life, he shows us that we, too, can abide in God.

- How do you ask God for what you desire?

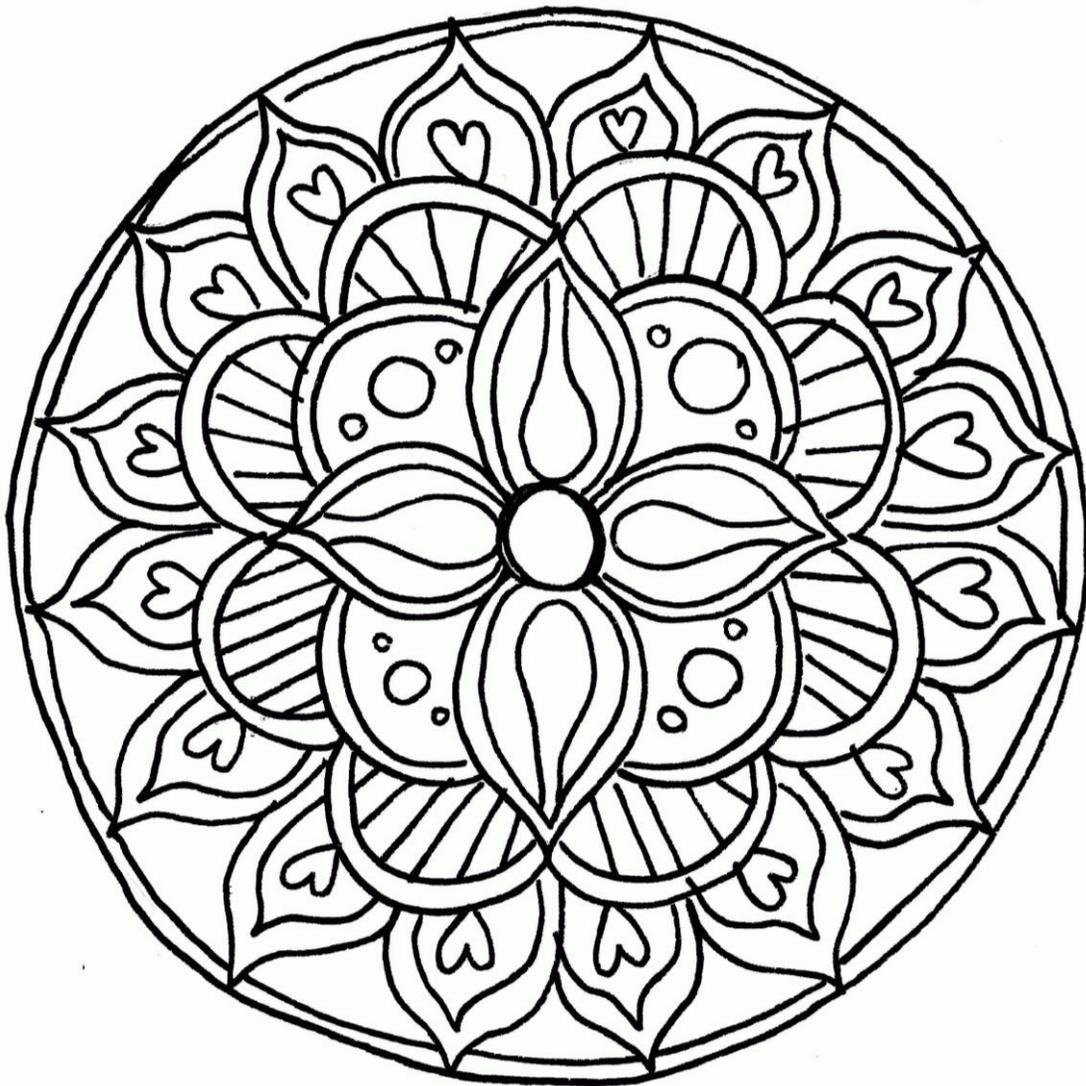


- What does it look like to abide in God in today's world?

*This Bible study, written by **Helena Martin***

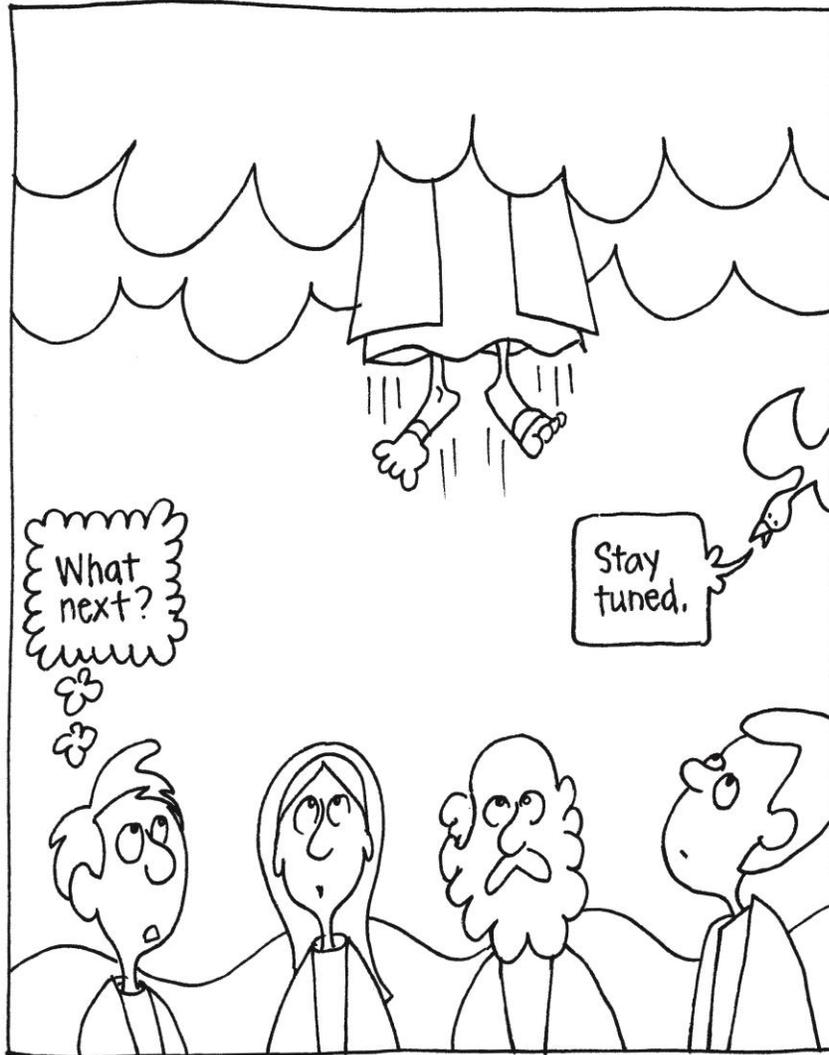
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Psalm 47 text from Webber, Christopher. *A new metrical Psalter*. New York: Church Publishing, 1986, p.97.
"The Mystery of Christ-An Ascensiontide Litany" from *The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer*, edited by Jeffrey W. Rowthorn. New York: Church Publishing, 2007, pp.89-90.
Prayer for the Innocents by the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson. May 25, 2022.
Closing Hymn text found at *Hymnal* #481



Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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