

Holy Eucharist

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=e194MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Ascension Day

Prelude

Largo, from Concerto in G Minor, J.S. Bach



All stand as they are able

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 214

Hail the day that sees him rise

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!
See! he shows the prints of love; Al - le - lu - ia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!
Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

All remaining standing as they are able, the Presider says

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to God's people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

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.**

All sit.

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
People*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain seated

Ascension Litany

The Presider and the People

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

He was tempted as a human, but he conquered as God.

He wants us to rejoice, for he has overcome the world.

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

He thirsted, but he cried, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink"

He promised that fountains would flow from those who believe.

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

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.

He prays, but he hears prayers.

He weeps, but he makes tears to cease.

He asks where Lazarus was laid because he was human;

but he raises Lazarus because he was God.

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.

As a sheep he is led to the slaughter, but he is the Shepherd of Israel—

and now of the whole world.

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

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

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

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

He is buried, but he rises again.

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

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

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

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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.

Sequence Hymn

We will glorify

Chorus Book 23

1. We will glo - ri - fy the King of Kings; We will
 2. Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty; We will
 3. He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth; He is
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of Kings; Hal - le -

glo - ri - fy the Lamb. We will glo - ri - fy the
 bow be - fore His throne. We will wor - ship Him in
 Lord of all who live. He is Lord a - bove the
 lu - jah to the Lamb. Hal - le - lu - jah to the

Lord of Lords, Who is the great I AM.
 righ - teous - ness; We will wor - ship Him a lone.
 u - ni - verse; All praise to Him we give.
 Lord of Lords, Who is the great I AM.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Bill Stech

All then stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

Nicene Creed

Presider and people say together

**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

All remain standing.

Presider Sisters and brothers, children of God, we stand amazed at the presence of the Lord with us in our time and beyond time. We turn our gaze to the Holy One, and ask for God's guidance and protection.

Intercessor Fix the eyes of the church always on you, Holy One, that we may see your glory and

receive your blessing as we follow you in everything we do. Guide our leaders and give them hearts for you and your people. **Pray for the church.**

Silence is kept.

Turn the hearts of the rulers of the nations toward the peace which you intend for all people, toward wise stewardship of the earth's resources, for the good of all people in every time and place. **Pray for the nations of the world.**

Silence is kept.

Increase our gratitude for the endless abundance you provide us each day, and accept our thanks [especially for_____].

Silence is kept.

Increase our efforts to become determined and compassionate carriers of your love and comfort to a broken world. We raise our concerns to you, Holy One, for the sick and the suffering [especially_____]. **Pray for those in need of healing.**

Silence is kept.

Receive those who have died into the heavenly kingdom where there is no pain or grief, where time is no more, where they sing with your glorious saints in light. [We remember_____]. **Pray for those who have died.**

Silence is kept.

Presider Fill us with your Spirit, Holy One, that we may be your faithful witnesses in every area of our lives, everywhere we go, to everyone we meet. We depend on your constant presence and power. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider then says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

The Presider then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Remain standing, or kneel, as you are able.

Minister 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.**

A Priest then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

All stand as they are able

Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

The Presider says

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. ¹
Chronicles 29:11

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing.

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

Glorious God, in Moses, the prophets, and the psalms you showed your purpose for your people and your love for your world.

In Jesus you fulfilled your promises and opened to us your heart.
In his passion and death we saw the consequences of our rejection and the depth of your yearning.

Yet you raised Jesus from the tomb.
In his resurrection you invite us into the company of your eternal joy, and in his ascension on high you seal as complete his work among us.

So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise you forever, singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

5
God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9
God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24 *molto rit.*
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

The Presider continues

Gracious God, your Son at his ascension promised the disciples they would be clothed with power from on high.

Send now your Holy Spirit, † that we may know the presence of your Son among us, and that this bread broken, and wine outpoured, + may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me"

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Generous God, your Son told his disciples to stay in the city until they were clothed by the Spirit. Give courage to those whom you call to stay in places of danger and confusion when their hearts are full of doubt and disillusion.

Your Son withdrew from the disciples when they did not know what the future would hold. Be close to all who face an uncertain future and deeply know their need of you.

Your Son's disciples were continually in the temple praising you. Give your church a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, and make it a blessing to all the children of your earth; until the completion of your Son's ministry becomes the completion of your whole creation, and you are all in all, one God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Presider says

This is the table, not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit.
It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before,
you who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.
Christ invites everyone to be known and fed here.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Music

Bereuse, Op. 16, Gabriel Faure

When all who desire have received, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Loving God,
 we give you thanks
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

And may the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God + strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

LEVAS 165

Higher ground

1. I'm press - ing on the up - ward way, New heights I'm
 2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a -
 3. I want to live a - bove the world, Though sa - tan's
 4. I want to scale the ut - most height, And catch a

1. gain - ing ev - ery day; Still pray - ing as I on - ward bound,
 2. rise and fears dis - may; Though some may dwell where these a - bound,
 3. darts at me are hurled; For faith has caught a joy - ful sound,
 4. gleam of glo - ry bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,



1. "Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground."
 2. My prayer, my aim is high - er ground. Lord, lift me
 3. The song of saints on high - er ground.
 4. "Lord, lead me on the high - er ground."

up, and let me stand By faith, on heav - en's ta - ble - land; A high - er
 plane than I have found, Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground.

Dismissal

Minister And now, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out with joy and in peace, to love and serve our Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Presto, from Concerto in G Minor, J.S. Bach

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We welcome Liza Dale to our service, and thank her for her music!

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations 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, with “St Barnabas” on the memo line. The **next Food Drive** is next week, **Sunday May 19**. In the Spirit of Pentecost, please contribute as generously as you can.

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This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

May 12 Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

May 12 Trinity Church, St Clair Shores; St Peter’s, Los Cornucos, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Alan, Kitty, Linda, Scott

and our continuing prayers for: Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

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Upcoming Commemorations

May 13 Frances Perkins, Social Reformer, 1965

May 15 Junia and Andronicus; and, Pachomius of Tabenissi, Monastic, 348

May 16 The Martyrs of Sudan and South Sudan

May 17 Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993; and,
William Hobart Hare: Bishop of Niobrara, and of South Dakota, 1909

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Easter 7B May 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Where violence seeks to end life, God seeks to bring new life. The invitation in this Easter season is to pay attention to the little buds of new life all around us. They are there, if only we take the time to notice. In this passage, new communities are forming. Communities of love who seek to follow the

life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this community formation, it is important for there to be people present who were actual witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection. This reminds us that we are part of a great cloud of witnesses who have lived into this story over many years and over many generations. Mothers telling their sons. Grandparents telling their grandchildren. We get to join in *that story* and *that legacy*. Thanks be to God.

- What does it mean to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ today?
- What does it mean to cultivate resurrection hope while also acknowledging the reality of grief? Can both be true?

Psalm 1

The image the psalmist gifts to us in this passage is that of a tree planted by a stream of water. This is a tree that always has access to sustenance. This is a tree that grows deep roots, it is not easily pushed

around by the cares and occupations of this life. Our society tends to celebrate outer measures of success, but what if true peace and true joy are rooted in our ability to cultivate our own interiority? To sit in silence, to listen to our breath, to pay attention to God’s spirit moving among us? That just might be what it means to plant oneself near living streams of water. If we are to stay present for ourselves and others, we need to be drawing on that strength.

- Is the well you draw on deep or shallow? How can it be deepened?
- What spiritual practices help you pay attention to God?

1 John 5:9-13

God’s testimony brings life. We know that if something does not lead to life and flourishing, then it is not the testimony of God. This passage was written in the midst of conflict. False teachers were leading the flock astray. How do you choose who to listen to? There are always loud voices competing for attention. The voice of God is often described as a whisper. The litmus test is this: does this make me more loving? Does this bring me closer to Jesus? Continual discernment helps us to regulate who we are listening to. The goal is to become more loving and more compassionate as we center our lives on Jesus and the things he cared about.

- Does the testimony I tell with my own life attest to the loving, liberating, life-giving work of God?
- How do the voices I surround myself with shape my Christian identity?

John 17:6-19

I imagine this scripture like the ending of a movie. The nostalgic instrumental music sets in. There is a drone that starts with landscape shots and then moves into this intimate moment of Jesus with his disciples. My body moves closer to the screen because I want to hear what Jesus is saying as his final words to his disciples. It starts with mumbles, then I realize what Jesus is doing. *He is praying for his disciples.* Jesus prays that they will have wisdom, that they will be protected, and that they would always stay near to truth.

In *A Ring of Endless Light*, Madeleine L’Engle writes:

“Prayer was never meant to be magic,” Mother said.

“Then why bother with it?” Suzy scowled.

“Because it’s an act of love,” Mother said.

Jesus embodies love when he spends his last moments on earth praying for his disciples. This passage is a gentle reminder of why we follow Jesus and why, even after all this time, we are still on this Christian journey: love.

- What can be inferred about what Jesus valued by the way he spent his final days?
- Who can you raise up in prayer today?

This study was written by Janelle Hiroshige

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Litany for Ascension Day as found in *Planning for rites and rituals...* p.165. “The mystery of Christ—an Ascensiontide Litany” from *The wideness of God’s mercy: litanies to enlarge our prayer*. Ed. By Jeffrey W. Rowthorn. New York: Church Publishing, 2007, pp.89-90

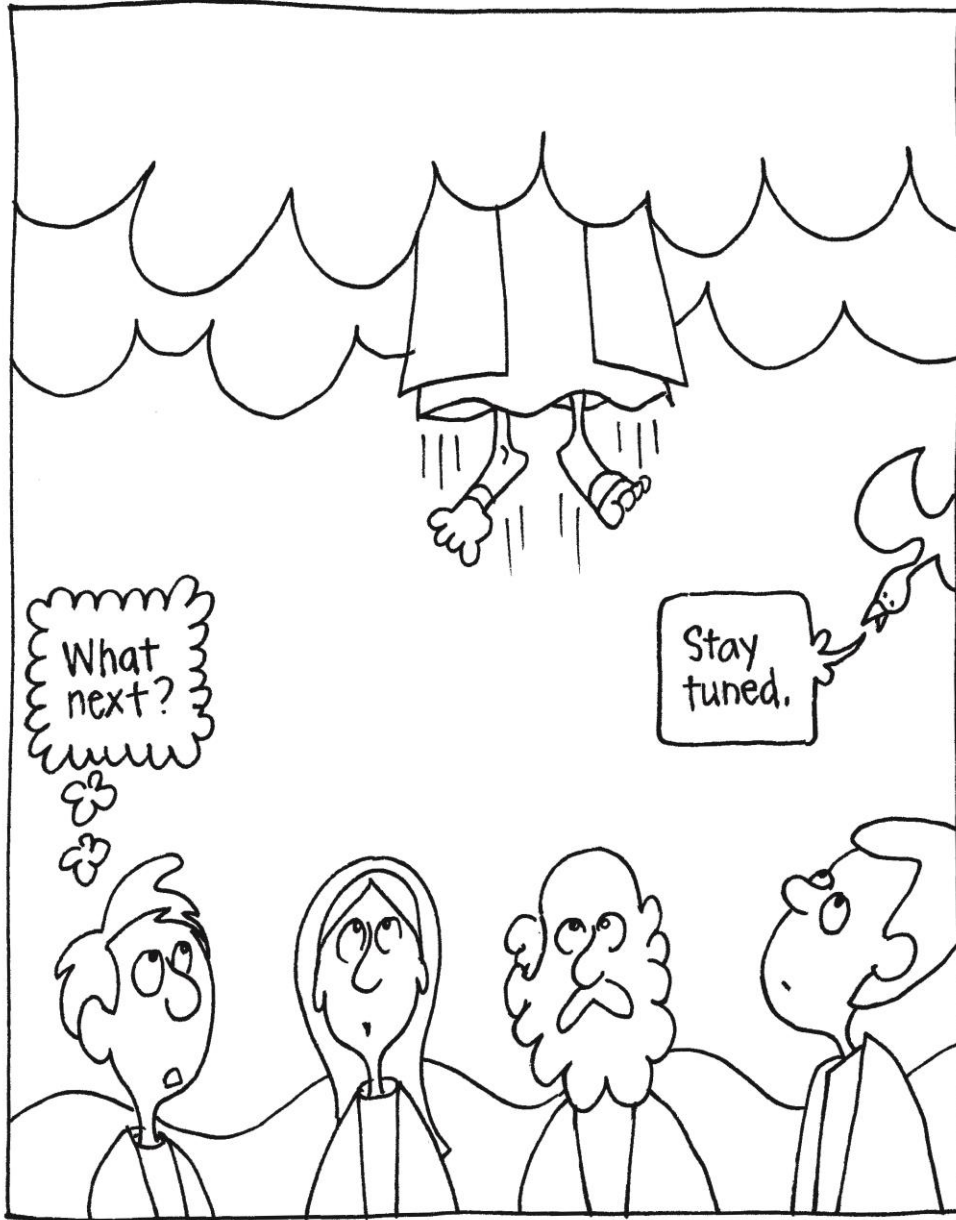
Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher. *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.180-181.

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Invitation to the Table adapted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001), p.53.

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.



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