

**The Seventh Sunday after Easter  
Ascension**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

21 May 2023 Year A

**10:30 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

**Prelude** Heut triumpheret, Gottes Sohn

J. S. Bach 1685-1750

**\*Processional Hymn** Hail the day that sees him rise (*Llanfair*)

**Hymnal #214**

**\*Opening Acclamation**

**BCP 355**

**\*Collect For Purity**

**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.*

**The First Lesson**

**Acts 1:1-11**

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."

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 47

Omnes gentes, plaudite



- 1 Clap your hands, | all you | peoples; \*  
shout to God | with a | cry of | joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is | to be | feared; \*  
he is the great King | over | all the | earth.
- 3 He subdues the | peoples | under us, \*  
and the | nations | under · our | feet.
- 4 He chooses our in- | heritage · for | us, \*  
the pride of | Jacob | whom he | loves.
- 5 God has gone up | with a | shout, \*  
the LORD with the | sound of · the | ram's- | horn.
- 6 Sing praises to | God, sing | praises; \*  
sing praises | to our | King, sing | praises.
- 7 For God is King of | all the | earth; \*  
sing praises with | all | your | skill.
- 8 God reigns | over · the | nations; \*  
God sits u- | pon his | holy | throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have | gathered · to- | gether \*  
with the people of the | God of | Abra- | ham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth be- | long to | God, \*  
and | he is | highly · ex- | alted.

**The Epistle Reading**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

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.

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

**\*Sequence** A hymn of glory let us sing (*Deo gracios*)

**Hymnal # 218**

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Luke 24:44-53**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Edward Murphy**

**\*The 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin  
Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is  
worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.

**\*The Prayers of the People**

Come, let us pray with thanksgiving to him who ascended with great triumph to God’s heavenly kingdom, responding to each petition by saying, “Hear us, Ascended Lord.”

+ Open our minds to understand the truth of holy scripture, fashioning our lives to proclaim its saving message, and bearing witness to the power of forgiveness and mercy; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

+ Send us into places of poverty and despair, that we may feed the hungry, comfort those who are ill, be present to the lonely, offer hope to the downtrodden, and reveal the healing power of the Risen and Ascended Christ; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

+ Turn our hearts toward your will, that we may choose new life, receive the grace of your forgiveness, and bear witness to your loving and sacrificial hope; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

+ Move the leaders of Church and government to guide us into a simplicity of living, discovering our worth through virtuous living, and leaving behind the false promises of the world’s wealth; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

+ Give us faith to perceive that Christ dwells with his Church on earth and prepares for us a heavenly mansion, especially remembering those who have died; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

+ In thanksgiving for the faith of the apostles, whose devotion to Jesus inspires our holy and life-giving commitment to proclaim his message today; for this we pray.

*Hear us, Ascended Lord.*

With the freedom of an enlightened heart, we join in the inheritance of the saints as we continue our prayers and thanksgivings.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for

Joan	Peter	Lorraine	Bob	Nathan
Richard	Dave	Edith	Judy	Carole
Shirley	Cece	Kathryn	Jeff	Carrie
Wes	Deb	Ruth	Daniel	Linda
Charles	Allison	Frank	Lynne	Johnlyn
Dick	Elizabeth	Jack	John	John
Rebecca	Katie	Julianne	Monica	Jim
Strater	Theodore	Faicia	John	
Penny	Carol	Eleanor	Terry	

In addition, we would like to pray for the safe return of our parishioners from St John’s as well as St Paul’s in Walla Walla, Washington as they travel to the Holy Land.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Lorie Faulkner, Emily Simon

## Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

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.*

## \*The Peace

*Please remain in your pew. Wave!*

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

## Announcements & Welcome

## Offertory Sentence

**Anthem** Above all praise,  
Above all praise and all majesty,  
Lord thou reignest evermore,  
Hallelujah.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

**\*Presentation Hymn** Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor (Bryn Calfaria)

**Hymnal #307**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

Expanded Language Prayer A

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts

**People:** We lift them to the Lord

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy** (*Sanctus*)

**Hymnal #S-128**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Fraction Anthem**      **Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

**Hymnal #S-165**

### **The Communion of the People**

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.*

*You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer.*

*Please replace your mask after receiving the sacrament.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Music** The Lord ascendeth up on high (*Ach Herr*)

**Hymnal #219**

## Post Communion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Blessing

**\*Recessional** See the Conqueror mounts in triumph (*In Babilone*)

**Hymnal #215**

## Dismissal

**Postlude** Prelude on *Bryn Calfaria*

R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**Acolyte:** Alyssa Green

**Liturgical Ministers:** Josette Garrison, Beverly Way, Susan Backstrom

**Virtual Vergers** Matthew Sanaker, Virginia McGhee

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!**

**May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.**

## LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # **A – 724223**

Youth Faith Formation at St. John's: June-August at 10:30 am

All children are welcome to our faith formation program which meets at 10:30 am in the Children's Chapel, on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our creative curriculum allows children to explore their faith through storytelling, wondering, and creative expression. Our next sessions will be on June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you! New and returning families are always welcome! If you have any questions, please call 607-273-6532 or email Cathy at [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

\*If you are missing a set of keys, including a Toyota car key, please contact Cathy in the office.

## HYMNS: 21 May 2023

### **Hail the day that sees him rise**

#### **Hymnal #214**

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!  
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!  
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!  
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!
3. See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!  
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!  
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!  
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!
4. Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!  
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!  
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

### **A hymn of glory let us sing**

#### **Hymnal # 218**

1. A hymn of glory let us sing,  
new hymns throughout the world shall ring;  
by a new way none ever trod  
Christ takes his place—the throne of God!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. You are a present joy, O Lord;  
you will be ever our reward;  
and great the light in you we see  
to guide us to eternity.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord,  
who are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit, One.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

### **Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor**

#### **Hymnal # 307**

1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor,  
first-begotten from the dead.  
Thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Jesus, true and living bread!  
Jesus, true and living bread!
2. Here our humblest homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou art here, we ask not how.  
Thou art here, we ask not how.

3. Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We in worship join with them.  
We in worship join with them.
4. Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished  
once for all when thou was slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Cleansing us from every stain.  
Cleansing us from every stain.
5. Life-imparting heavenly Manna,  
smitten Rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Risen, ascended, glorified!  
Risen, ascended, glorified!

### **The Lord ascendeth up on high**

#### **Hymnal #219**

1. The Lord ascendeth up on high,  
the Lord hath triumphed gloriously,  
in power and might excelling;  
the grave and hell are captive led.  
Lo! he returns, our glorious Head,  
to his eternal dwelling.
2. The heavens with joy receive their Lord,  
by saints, by angel hosts adored;  
O day of exultation!  
O earth, adore thy glorious King!  
His rising, his ascension sing  
with grateful adoration!
3. Our great High Priest hath gone before,  
upon his Church his grace to pour;  
and still his love he giveth.  
O may our hearts to him ascend;  
may all within us upward tend  
to him who ever liveth!

### **See the Conqueror mounts in triumph**

#### **Hymnal #215**

1. See the Conqueror mounts in triumph;  
see the King in royal state,  
riding on the clouds, his chariot,  
to his heavenly palace gate!  
Hark! the choirs of angel voices



joyful alleluias sing,  
and the portals high are lifted  
to receive their heavenly King.

2. He who on the cross did suffer,  
he who from the grave arose,  
he has vanquished sin and Satan;  
he by death has spoiled his foes.  
While he lifts his hands in blessing,  
he is parted from his friends;

while their eager eyes behold him,  
he upon the clouds ascends.

3. Thou has raised our human nature  
on the clouds to God's right hand;  
there we sit in heavenly places,  
there with thee in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne;  
mighty Lord, in thine ascension  
we by faith behold our own.



St. John's Church

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Ithaca, NY

(607)-273-6532

[www.stjohnsithaca.org](http://www.stjohnsithaca.org)

Office email: [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

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**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

**The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector**

Gwen Freeman, Senior Warden  
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner  
Director of Music/Organist, Dr. Anna Stepler

Beverly Way, Junior Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail [mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org).

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

**Please Join Us:**

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Parish Hall following the service. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Morning Prayer Monday – Thursday at 9:30 on Facebook and YouTube.

*Forward Day by Day* for **May**, **June**, and **July** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

**Flowers:** If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).