



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### *Ascension of Our Lord*

May 17, 2026

*The Good News for Today: Jesus Christ is Master of the Universe.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.*

*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 (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

## Gathering Music

*STAND*

**Hymn: God Is Here!** (*Verses 1 & 4*) — ELW 526 (Red Book)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 God is here! As we your people<br/>meet to offer praise and prayer,<br/>may we find in fuller measure<br/>what it is in Christ we share.<br/>Here, as in the world around us,<br/>all our varied skills and arts<br/>wait the coming of the Spirit<br/>into open minds and hearts.</p> | <p>4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,<br/>in an age of change and doubt,<br/>keep us faithful to the gospel;<br/>help us work your purpose out.<br/>Here, in this day's dedication,<br/>all we have to give, receive;<br/>we, who cannot live without you,<br/>we adore you! We believe!</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## 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.**

*SIT*

## The Readings

### Acts 1:1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup> **For the Lord Most High is to be feared:  
a great king over all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup> who subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet;

<sup>4</sup> **who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of the ram’s horn.

<sup>6</sup> **Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup> For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over the nations;  
God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

## 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

STAND

### Gospel Acclamation



## John 17:1-11

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this

is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

**Sermon – “Up” – Pastor Bo Bannister**

*STAND*

## Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus — ELW 392 (Red Book)

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received  
him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heav'n your  
throne.  
As within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
here on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

## The Nicene Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

*SIT*

## Announcements

*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

## Children's Message

## Offering

Offertory: Be Not Afraid – (Courtney)

*STAND*

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow  
– ELW 885 (Red Book)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. We pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying:

## The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever and ever. Amen.**

*SIT*

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## Distribution of the Elements

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*STAND*

## Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Bind Us Together – WOV 748 (Blue Book)

### *Refrain*

Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together with cords that  
cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together; bind us together in  
love.

### *Verse 2*

You are the fam'ly of God.  
You are the promise divine.  
You are God's chosen desire,  
you are the glorious new wine.  
*Refrain*

### *Verse 1*

There is only one God.  
There is only one King.  
There is only one Body;  
that is why we can sing:

*Refrain*

Text: Bill Gillman, b. 1946.

Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946.

© 1977 Thank you Music, admni. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna! Music

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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