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"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Holy Spirit won't come. When I go away, God will send the Spirit to you." John 16:7

Ascension Sunday

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

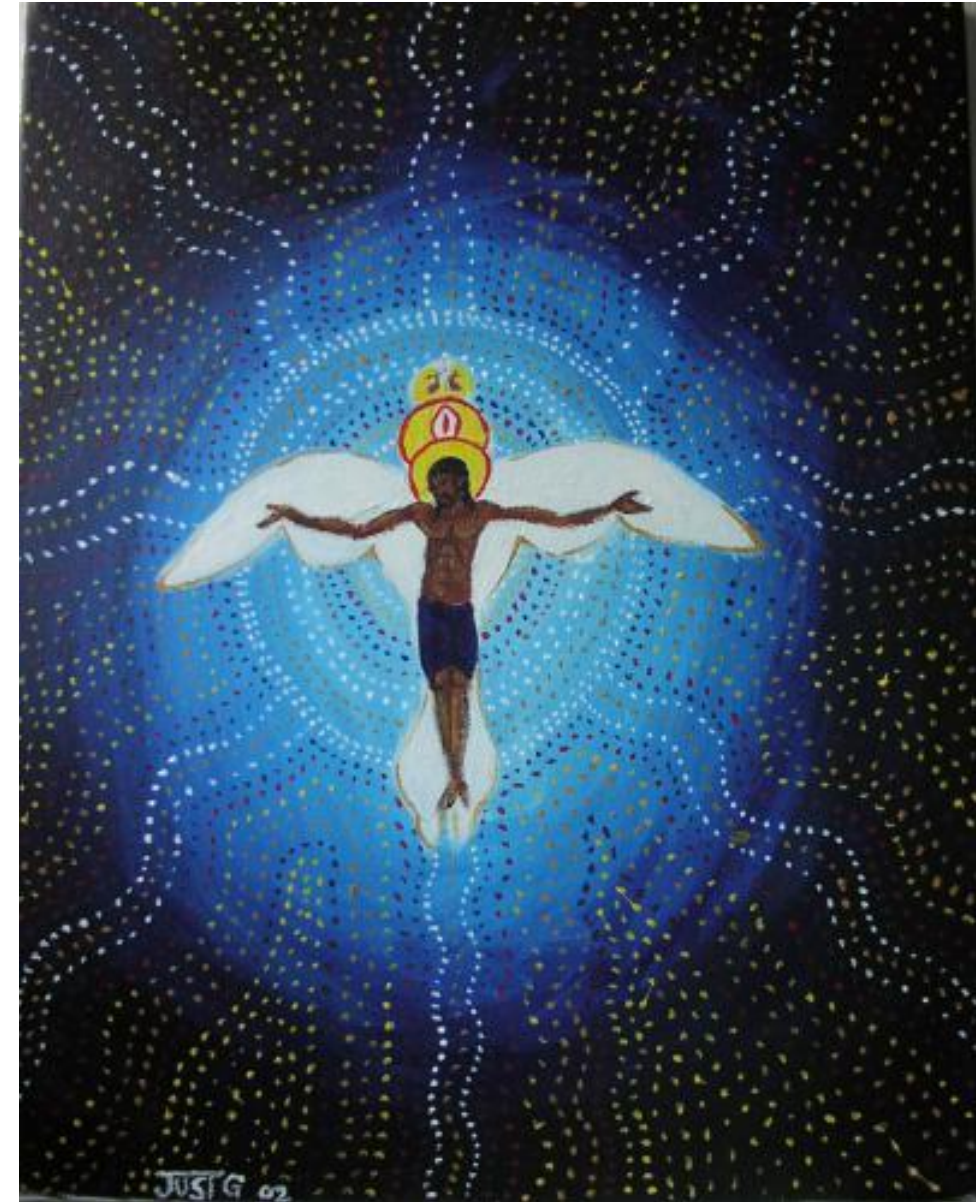
The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

May His grace and peace be with you.

May He fill our hearts with joy!

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
God invites us to bring our doubts and fears,
our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise,
and join our hearts together in worship.

O God of glory,
your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us
and ascended to your right hand.
Unite us with Christ and each other,
in suffering and in joy,
that all your children may be drawn
into your bountiful dwelling. Amen.



Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, "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."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Heaven
welcomes
with joy....
Earth is left
with sorrow
& confusion



Psalm 122 for Jerusalem Sunday

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Jerusalem is built
As a city that is compact together,
Where the tribes go up,
The tribes of the LORD,
To the Testimony of Israel,
To give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For thrones are set there for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces.”
For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, “Peace *be* within you.”
Because of the house of the LORD our God
I will seek your good.



Prayers for the Day

For the Order of St. Lazarus, founded in Jerusalem to care for lepers and terminally ill.

Father of infinite mercy, lover of life, in the uncertainty of this time, full of darkness, and in this moment of concern and anguish for the spread of the virus in many countries of the world, we turn to you with the trust of your children. Never before have we felt so clearly that we belong to a single human family, despite the fear of contagion affecting our social relationships, and the pursuit of individual interest at the expense of the common good. We live in the presence of God our Father. We bring into his presence, in the name of the Lord Jesus, those for whom we pray. O God of love and power, we come to you for those who are ill in body or mind, and for those who are cast down and sad. Tell them in the midst of all their pain and anxiety that your name is Love; and since you ordained that your own will needs our cooperation, use these our prayers. Turn our caring into their courage, our solicitude into their succour, our faith into their will to get well; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Jerusalem Sunday, we remember the peace and preservation ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and its ministries in Syria, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Jordan

O God, We give thanks that your dear Son has gathered us in the embrace of his redeeming love and sent us to make that love known to the ends of the earth. We pray your continued blessings on the steadfast witness of the Church in Jerusalem and throughout the Middle East. Give your deep joy to those who welcome the pilgrims seeking to know this land and its many peoples. Grace those who proclaim the Gospel. Guide all who teach a new generation of young people. Draw near to those who are sick and bless those who tend them. Sustain the hope in all who long and labour for a just and lasting peace in the land of The Holy One. And may the companions of Jerusalem be many and faithful. We pray in the name of our merciful Saviour, Friend, and Brother, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Receive these prayers, O God,
and transform us through them,
that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand
not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do
so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Preserve us from temptation and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever, Amen.

