



SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

in the

GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

*Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada*

*Bishop
Incumbent
Church Wardens
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choir Director
Sexton*

Archbishop David Edwards
Fr Christopher Ketch
Paul Desjardins, Chris Titus
Lori Maker
David Mitchell
Larry Totton

668 Manawagonish Rd.,
Saint John, N. B. E2M 3W5
(506) 635-8145 Church Office
e-mail: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca
www.goodshepherdsj.ca



We acknowledge that the land on which
we gather is the traditional unceded
territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet)
and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

The liturgy is according to *The Book of Alternative Services* with some elements from other sources

**THE CHURCH GATHERS IN CELEBRATION
OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION**

Opening

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns” CP 378

- 1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne:
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music
but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

The Greeting

REMAIN STANDING

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.
And also with you.

The Collect for Purity

REMAIN STANDING

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

Introduction

The presider introduces the service using these or other suitable words.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, for forty plus days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.

Today, in celebrating Christ's ascension, we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

The Ascension Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.'

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.' [NRSV-A]

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through

the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

Then follows this act of praise.

PLEASE STAND, AS ABLE

“Glory to God on high” CP 365

- 1 Glory to God on high,
 and peace to all on earth.
 We worship you, we give you thanks,
 our heavenly King.
 We give you praise, almighty God
 and Father blessed in glory bright.

- 2 Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
 the Father’s only Son,
 the sacrificial Lamb who saves the world from sin,
 have mercy Lord.
 Beside the Father’s hand enthroned,
 now hear our prayer.

- 3 You only are the Lord.
 You only are most high.
 You only are the holy one, Lord Jesus Christ.
 And now you reign with Father and with Spirit
 one in glorious light.

Text Glory to God, para. Paul Gibson (1952 -)

Tune DARWALL, John Darwall (1731-1789)

The Collect of the Day

REMAIN STANDING

Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son
our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE PSALM.

Psalm 93

- 1 The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel; *
the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself
with strength.
- 2 **He has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;**
- 3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been
established; *
you are from everlasting.
- 4 **The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have
lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.**
- 5 Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the
breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.
- 6 **Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
forever and for evermore.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

WE STAND, AS ABLE, FOR THE GRADUAL.

Gradual Song "*Majesty*"

Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honor and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings *Repeat at: So exalt ...*

"Majesty"
Words and Music Jack Hayford
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REMAIN STANDING

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

God has highly exalted Jesus Christ. **Alleluia.**

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. **Alleluia.**

Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Alleluia.

cf Philippians 2.9-11

The Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴ 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.’

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.’

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Song “*He is Exalted*”

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, for ever exalted
and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord;
forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high.

“He is exalted”

Words and Music Twila Paris

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The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

The presider may invite the people, in these or similar words, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**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.
With the Father and the Son**

**he is worshipped 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

As we come to our prayers
I invite you to kneel or be seated.

Silence is held for a time.

Let us join our prayers with those of our ascended Saviour
Christ, seeking the Father's blessing and the gifts of the
Spirit.

Jesus Christ, great high priest, living forever to intercede
for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world,
as we pray for David our bishop and Chris our incumbent.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule,
as we pray for those who lead us.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or
sorrow, remembering today and others we would
mention silently or aloud [*pause*].

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises,

remembering, and others we would mention,
silently or aloud **[pause]**.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in
your service.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every
word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to God and
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Please kneel or be seated and hold silence for a time for
personal confession.

Silence is held.

Confession

Lord our God,
**in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us; forgive us our sins;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The presider stands and says the following.

Absolution

The Lord God, most gracious and merciful,
forgive you your sins, and take your guilt away,
now and forevermore;
in the name of his Son, the ascended Lord,
Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

ALL STAND, AS ABLE.

The Peace

The presider addresses the people.

Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The gathered church greet one another in the Lord's name.

THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn "*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*" **CP 247**

- 1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
 To his throne beyond the skies; Alleluia!
 Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
 Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
- 2 There for him high triumph waits: Alleluia!
 Lift your heads, eternal gates; Alleluia!
 He hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
 Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!
- 3 Highest heaven its Lord receives; Alleluia!
 Yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia!
 Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
 Still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!

- 4 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!

Text Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune ASCENSION, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Prayer over the Gifts

REMAIN STANDING, AS ABLE

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ
has promised to be with us until the end of time.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and renew us in his risen and ascended life;
for the sake of the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presider then continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

Eucharistic Prayer

CONTINUE STANDING, AS ABLE

The Lord is here.
The Spirit of God is with us.

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 right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image;
male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory, and gave him the name which is above every name: at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising your holy name, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for 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.

As we do this, O Lord,
we remember your death until you come again.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption
with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,
**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,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept for a time.

The Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

THE COMMUNION

The presider invites the people to share in communion, saying,

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.
**Blessed are those who are called to the supper of
the Lamb.
Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

*ALL NOW RECEIVE COMMUNION, IN A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION AND SILENCE. ALSO,
ALL ARE WELCOME TO SING ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING HYMNS.*

“There is a Redeemer” MP 673

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One

Chorus

*Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
oh for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory I will see His face,
and there I'll serve my King forever
in that holy place.

"There is a Redeemer"
Words and Music Melody Green
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"Let all mortal flesh keep silence" CP 48

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to us approacheth,
our full homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye

veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high!"

Text trans Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)
Tune PICARDY, 17th cent French carol

Prayer after Communion

Kneeling or seated, let us pray.

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

A Reading from Acts

Acts 1:12,13a,14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then the disciples 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. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. *[NRSV-A]*

The presider then continues.

Responsory

As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CHURCH DEPARTS IN THE JOY OF THE RISEN AND ASCENDED LORD

Dismissal

Go, in the joy of the risen and ascended Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn “*Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven*”

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing;
alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.
- 3 Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes;
alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind, and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish,
god endures unchanging on!
alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal one!
- 5 Angels, help us to adore him,
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

Text Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Music PRAISE, MY SOUL John Goss (1800-1880)

desc. Gerald Manning (1943-)

Postlude

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Joyce Mitchell & Ann Stone
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Margaret Penchoff & Ann Stone
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Paul Desjardins
<i>Second Reader</i>	Lori McGovern
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Presider & preacher</i>	Keith Joyce
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Shayne Galbraith

Those serving in our outreach this week:

Sun, May 17, 11:45 am	No Lunch
HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	School is closed.
Mon, May 18, 11:30 am	No Lunch
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	School is closed.

Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

THIS WEEK

Wed, May 20, 10:00 am Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Paulin Wilson at 506 738-8677

Wed, May 20, 7:00 pm Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

FOR OUR WORSHIP and LEARNING

Next Sunday – May 24 Pentecost Sunday Scripture readings
Acts 2:1-21; *Psalm 104:25-37*; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14; John 20:19-23

Notes on Today's Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1-11 Acts picks up where the gospel according to Luke ends, with a small overlap. Luke and Acts are by the same author, whom we call Luke. Both books are written to Theophilus, meaning *lover of God*. This may be a person, but it may be any reader who loves God.

Ephesians 1:15-23 Paul has written of the Father's wisdom and insight in making known to us his will, his plan for completion of the restoration of the faithful to oneness with him, as told by Jesus. That both Jews and Gentiles share so much he sees as a milestone in this plan.

Luke 24:44-53 After his resurrection, Jesus has appeared to Cleopas and two other followers, and has shared a meal with them. They have hurried back to Jerusalem to tell of their experience to the eleven disciples and other followers. He has invited them to check that he is really present, and has eaten a piece of broiled fish.

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ASCENSION DAY

The Ascension of Jesus is the event where, forty days after His resurrection, Jesus physically rose into heaven, marking the conclusion of His earthly ministry and the beginning of His heavenly reign.

■ **Biblical Account**

The Ascension is recorded primarily in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11, where Jesus led His disciples near Bethany on the Mount of Olives, blessed them, and was taken up into heaven while a cloud hid Him from their sight. Mark 16:19 also affirms that Jesus “sat down at the right hand of God” after ascending, emphasizing His exalted authority and divine kingship. This event occurred forty days after His resurrection, during which He appeared to His followers and taught them about the kingdom of God.

■ **Theological Significance**

1. **Exaltation and Authority**: The Ascension demonstrates that Jesus is exalted as Lord and Christ, fulfilling the prophecy of Psalm 110:1 by taking His place at God's right hand, a position of eternal authority.
2. **Completion of Earthly Ministry**: It signifies the end of Jesus' physical presence on earth and the fulfillment of His mission, confirming His divinity and the reality of His resurrection.
3. **Empowerment of the Church**: Before ascending, Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit, equipping them to continue His work and spread the gospel. The Ascension thus inaugurates the Church's mission and the ongoing spiritual guidance of believers.

4. Hope of His Return: Angels present at the Ascension assured the disciples that Jesus would return “in the same way” He left, pointing to the future Second Coming and the ultimate fulfillment of salvation history.

■ **Observance and Cultural Context**

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on the 40th day of Easter, always a Thursday (this year it was May 14), though some Orthodox traditions observe it later. It is recognized in many Christian denominations, including Lutheran and Anglican churches, while some Nonconformist groups do not observe it. The Mount of Olives near Bethany is traditionally venerated as the site of the Ascension, with early Christian writings and archaeological evidence supporting this devotion.

■ **Summary**

The Ascension of Jesus is a pivotal event in Christian theology. It confirms His divinity, completes His earthly mission, empowers the Church through the Holy Spirit, and anticipates His return. Far from being merely symbolic, it is a literal, visible, and historical event that continues to shape Christian faith and practice.

NOTICES

Food Bank

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** with a toonie or a loonie in the can in the Narthex, or a donation in a special envelope marked with your name or number. We aim to support the Food Bank by at least \$ 200/month!

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***Happy Birthday this Week to:***



Gerald Miller, May 17  
Jack Taylor, May 22  
Nancy Forbes-Kerrigan, May 23

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PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

GINNY ABBOTT, FRANCES FINLEY, ANN HOBEN, RUTH NORTHEAST, ARLENE TRASK

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

ANDREW AALUND, DIANE BASQUE, MARGARET BOYER, EDITH CHILTON, SHELLY CLARK COLLINS, LINDA CUNNINGHAM, JO-ANN DIAMOND, BONNIE DEAN, WENDY DEWITT, ERNEST ELLINGWOOD, BARB ELLIS, DEBBIE GREEN, KAYE MALLORY, PAM MELANSON, MICHAEL PENCHOFF, SUSAN PENCHOFF, CAROL PRICE, MARGARET ANN REID, LOIS SHAW, BOB SHERWOOD, MYKAYLA SPINNEY, NORM TOOLE, DENNIS TOTTON, JOE TOTTON, ROBBIE WONG.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of May 17-23

- Mon:** Doug Simpson and Family
Tue: Mary Ann Smyrl and Family
Wed: Gordon and Kim Spinney and Mykayla
Thur: Ann Stone
Fri: Our Parish Volunteers

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

Ascensiontide

These last days of the Great Fifty Days of Easter are also called Ascensiontide, the ten days between our Lord's ascension on Ascension Day, May 14 and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost next Sunday, May 24. This time Jesus' leaving produced no grief. The disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they waited.

How do we wait for, how do we anticipate, the "power from on high" for ourselves and for our church? On Ascension Day the disciples were commissioned to be witnesses of Jesus. On Pentecost they will be empowered for that commission. It's no different for us. Do we know that? Do we want that? Our answers can have significant impact on the vitality and authenticity of our church's life, ministry and mission.

**A blessed
Ascensiontide
to All!**