

**Order of Service Sunday May 16, 2021 7th Sunday of Easter
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR**



Today's Worship Leaders Carolyn Brown, Sara Jameson, and Jim Rutledge

Welcome Greetings

Easter Acclimation *(let us say in unison, three times)*

- Alleluia, The Lord is Risen!
- *The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia*

The Collect: *(Let us say in unison)*

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Lesson - A Reading from the Book of Acts

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

- Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
- *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 1 (let us read in unison)

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Second Lesson - A Reading from the Epistle of John

1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
- *Thanks be to God*

A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 17:6-19

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "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. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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. 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. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 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. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the

world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Thanks be to God

A Homily

“The Sunday after the Ascension”

The church year begins with the season of Advent, which means that for nearly the first half of the church calendar we anticipate and celebrate the coming of Christ and his life, ministry, death, and resurrection here on earth. Although we affirm in the creeds that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Eastertide direct our focus to Immanuel, Christ with us, Jesus living amongst us on earth. But today we remember Christ’s ascension, next week we celebrate Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit, and then we enter the second half of the church year: ordinary time.

Ordinary time takes its name from the ordinal numbers [1st, 2nd ..] that mark the weeks after Pentecost — the first Sunday after Pentecost, the second Sunday, etc. — but it’s also an ordinary season, a season for growing and working and living in this in-between space separating the resurrection and the return of Christ. This rhythm of the church year balances waiting, feasting and simply living, reflecting the tension of Christianity. We celebrate the coming of Jesus and we anticipate his return, but in the midst of that we also live and work in this world now, existing in the already and not-yet kingdom of heaven.

As we live in this tension, however, the Ascension can feel like loss. Surely it must have felt like loss to Jesus’ companions, who had seen Jesus leave them once before; no wonder that they anticipated his second coming within their lifetimes. It can also feel like loss to us today, two millennia later, like an empty house after the guests have gone or a return to daily life after the excitement of travel. The waiting and the celebrating are over, leaving a gap in our lives.

Today’s collect reminds us, though, that we are not left alone or left comfortless. Jesus has been exalted to heaven, but as he promised his disciples he is sending the Holy Spirit. And through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have the hope that one day we, too, will be exalted to be with Jesus forever. And so on this Sunday, between the Ascension (celebrated last Thursday) and Pentecost, we can take time to transition from the highs of Eastertide into ordinary time. Jesus has ascended and we remain here on earth, but he promises that we will one day join him and, until then, we have the Holy Spirit with us. As we meditate on the ascension of Jesus, then, let us also anticipate the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives during the coming months of ordinary time. May the Spirit comfort and sustain us as we go forth into the world and live our lives as the people of God.

Thanks to [Sarah Lindsay](https://anglicancompass.com/the-sunday-after-the-ascension-a-collect-reflection/) for the homily | <https://anglicancompass.com/the-sunday-after-the-ascension-a-collect-reflection/>

Prayers of the People are a Special Form for 7th Sunday of Easter

The response is *People Lord, graciously hear us.*

Not belonging to the world, we intercede for the world. Let us offer prayers to God for all persons everywhere, to protect them from the evil one.

For this holy gathering and all who enter our circle of faith. For this parish family of St. Martin that we will faithfully bear witness to the risen Christ in word and deed.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For the newly baptized illumined by the light of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For our leaders, and all the holy people of God in every place.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For the leaders of the nations and peace in the world.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For this city of Lebanon and the community around us.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For all in any pain and all who sorrow, especially those on our prayer list and those we name at this time, silently or aloud.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed, especially Ken Christ and those known to God.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

Lifting our voices with the blessed Mary, and Martin and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you sent your Son into the world: Hear our prayers for all your creation and sanctify us in the truth of your word. Glory to you for ever and ever.

Amen.

Nicene Creed - (*Let us say in unison*)

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.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor (*please say in unison*)

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.**

Absolution

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

Lord's Prayer (please say in unison)

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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for St. Martin's

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, **Amen.**

Easter Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

