

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**Ascension Sunday** - May 21, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. *Matthew 28.19, 20*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**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 neighbours 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 upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: *He Is Lord* (MP #220)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

**We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

Christ our Passover*1 Corinthians 5.7–8; Romans 6.9–11; 1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

**death no longer has dominion over him.**

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

**the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

For since by a man came death, \*

**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**

For as in Adam all die, \*

**so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Acts 1:6–14.

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.”

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.**

Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*

**let those who hate him flee before him.**

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*

**as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at**

**the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*

**Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him!**

Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*

**God in his holy habitation!**

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*

**but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people, \*

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,

at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*

**you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it; \*

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*

**sing praises to the Lord.**

He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*

**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God; \*

**his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*

**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!**

**Blessed be God!**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the first letter of Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11

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. 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. 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.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 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. 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. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 22a - *Jesus Christ Is Lord -**Philippians 2:6-11*

Christ Jesus, by nature divine,

did not grasp for himself

a rank as equal with God.

**He chose to empty himself,**

**becoming a humble slave,**

**and living the life of a man.**

And human in every way,

he abased himself still more,

obedient to death on a cross.

**So God has exalted him on high,**

**and given to him the name,**

**the greatest of all the names;**

So that at Jesus’ name

every knee should bend low

in heaven, on earth, in the depths,

**And every tongue proclaim:**

**Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.**

**Amen.**

Song: *The Kingdom of God*

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (17:1-11).

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“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.

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, “Hear us, Lord of glory!”

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened,

[**Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.**]

let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

[**Silence. Take a moment to offer up your own thanksgivings to God.**]

We will exalt you, O God our king; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

O Gracious Father, whose desire is that all the peoples of the world should be one human family, living together in harmony, grant that our homes, by their worship and witness, may help to hasten the day when your will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

O Merciful Lord, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us.

**We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**We thank you also for those disappointments and failures**

**that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of his peace,*

*and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Song: *He Reigns*

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing

through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. Alleluia!**