

*Holy Comforter Episcopal Church*  
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

May 9, 2024  
Holy Eucharist Rite II

“He ascended into  
heaven, and is seated  
at the right hand  
of the Father”



*Our Mission*  
“*Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others*”

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector  
The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *(standing)*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen. †

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

*Celebrant* God has gone up with a shout,

**People** The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty 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 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 kindly yet loving rule, let us praise him together.

**You are God: we praise you;**

**You are the Lord; we acclaim you;**

**You are the eternal Father:**

**All creation worships you.**

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,**

**Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

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

**The glorious company of apostles praise you.**

**The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.**

**The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.**

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you;**

**Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**You, Christ, are the king of glory,**

**the eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you became man to set us free**

**you did not shun the Virgin's womb.**

**You overcame the sting of death**

**and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

**We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

## THE READING

**Daniel 7:9-14**

As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.  
A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousand served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgement,  
and the books were opened.

I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.  
To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,

and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 47** (*Read Responsively*)

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared;  
he is the great King over all the earth.**

3 He subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet.

**4 He chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

5 God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

7 For God is King of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.

**8 God reigns over the nations;  
God sits upon his holy throne.**

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**10 The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
and he is highly exalted.**

**THE SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 2:5-18**

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?’

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honour,  
subjecting all things under their feet.’

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader            Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
People            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence-What indeed is God saying?*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:16-20**

Reader    Alleluia, alleluia! Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

People    **Alleluia.**

Reader    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People    **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON** (*seated*)

**Father Allen**



**THE NICENE CREED** (*All stand, saying together*)

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Leader* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have exalted your Son Christ Jesus to your right hand, and made him the head over all things for his body the Church: hear us as we pray for the Church throughout the world, and especially for its leaders. Make us and all your people receptive to the gifts he pours upon us, that we may use them to your glory, and for the building up of the body of Christ.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**People Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, you have given your Son all authority in heaven and on earth: hear us as we pray for the world he came to redeem. Grant that we may know even in this time the things that make for peace, and may strive for the reconciliation of all people in his kingdom of justice and love.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**People Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Father of all, whose Son has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age: hear us as we pray for those among whom we live and work. Grant that we may be so aware of his presence with us, that people may take note of us, that we have been with Jesus.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**People Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* O God our Redeemer, whose Son ever lives to make intercession for us: hear us as we pray for those in any kind of need, especially Celeste, Elaine, Roger, David, Walter, Mae, Cynthia, Lee & Bonnie, Herb & Rhonda, Chris, Russell & Marcie, Erin, Charles, Russell, Maria, Sterling, Marcie, Chandler, Pat, Anita, Patty & Bill, Mary Claire, Jan, and Jackie. May he who has borne our infirmities strengthen and heal them, that they may find grace to help in time of need, and rejoice in his salvation.  
Lord, in your mercy:

**People Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Heavenly Father, whose Son has borne our humanity into the heavenly realms, and gone before us to prepare a place for us: hear us as we remember before you those whose earthly sojourn is over, and whose life is now hidden in him with you. Make us joyful and expectant, that at his coming with all his own we too may go forth to meet him, and share in his eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy:

**People** **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE PEACE** (*STANDING*)

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **OFFERTORY**

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

## **LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **Eucharistic Prayer D** (*Standing*)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory



of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

*Celebrant and People:*

**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.**

*(The people may remain standing or kneel.)*

*Celebrant*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**People** **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the children of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*All baptized Christian believers are invited to receive Holy Communion. All others are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing. To receive this option, please cross your arms over your chest in front of the priest.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All stand*)

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*Celebrant* May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on high; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

**People** **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

# *Holy Comforter Episcopal Church*

The Reverend Dr. Allen Hill, Rector  
The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector



## VESTRY

Rick Wagner, Senior Warden  
Robert Efthim, Junior Warden  
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