Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Put your heavenly, healing power to work in the lives of all who are suffering or sick. Fill them with the fullness of life you alone can give. By your grace, O God, *raise us from death to life.*

Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world the good news of your saving power and love, so that all may believe and have life in you; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, ...

Music

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Joshua Allen

John Tieken

Rev. David Reeder

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us dedicate our offering together:

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Sending —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Rev. David Reeder

May the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit abide with you forever. *Alleluia!*

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. *Amen.*

Postlude

Joshua Allen

Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences

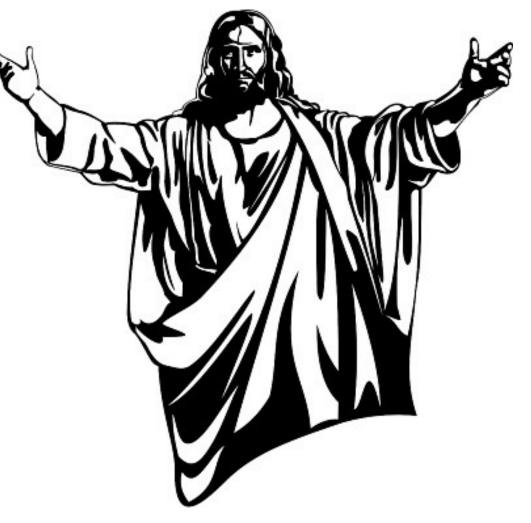
| Rev. Michele R. Goff | Pastor |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Joshua Allen | Music Director |
| Stefen Kane | Admin Assist. |





May 16, 2021 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension of the Lord



Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses

Service for the Lord's Day — Gathering —

WELCOME

INTROIT

OPENING SENTENCES

Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! With praise and thanksgiving worship God, who reigns in majesty above the mighty waters. We will not stand looking up toward heaven, for God is moving in this place!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, John Tieken

Rev. David Reeder

Joshua Allen

Joshua Allen

CONFESSION

Music

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

O God, in Christ you bore the suffering of the world and made us witnesses to your grace. In your Word you showed us your vision of peace and made us witnesses to your promises. Forgive us, O God, when we fail to work for your reign, forgetting that you have called us to bear your truth. Forgive us, O God, when we gaze up toward heaven, forgetting that you have called us to do your work on earth. Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, enlighten us to recognize the resurrection all around us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. David Reeder

Joshua Allen

John Tieken

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA!

- Word -

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first reading is from the book of Acts chapter 1 verses 1 - 11. Christ has opened our minds to understand the scriptures. Hear the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our next reading is from the letter to the Ephesians chapter 1, verses 15 - 23.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL

Our gospel lesson today is from the gospel according to Luke chapter 24, verses 44—53. Hear the word of God for us.

We are witnesses to these things-the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Music

ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

All authority and power and dominion to the name that is above all names— Jesus Christ our Lord-now and in the age to come. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that the unity of the church can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; and that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, and convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are, by virtue of our reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment, within the one visible people of God. We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life, saying: By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for the church . . . Keep us ever faithful in our worship and service, bearing witness to what Christ has done among us and to the hope of His coming in glory to reign. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . . Let your majesty shine; let your mercy rain down. Humble the leaders

of the nations, teach them to follow your ways of justice and peace. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . . Encourage those who watch and wait for justice. Empower them with the gifts of your Spirit to live, even now, in the light of your holy realm. By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones . . .

Joshua Allen

Rev. David Reeder

Rev. David Reeder

John Tieken