

A close-up photograph of several white lilies with yellow-green stamens, set against a light-colored, textured fabric background. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others partially open. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the delicate petals and the vibrant green of the stamens.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Last Sunday of Easter

May 21st 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....James Reifinger, Organist
Lento (Op. 105, No. 3) Charles Villiers Stanford

Processional.....#450 All hail the power of Jesus name

Greeting *Beginning on BCP p. 77*

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Presider continues with one or more of the following

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

The Invitatory and Psalter *BCP. 80*

All stand

Presider: Lord, open our lips

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen Alleluia.

From Easter Day until Ascension

Presider: Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

People: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Song of Praise.....Rutter Gloria

The Psalm Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Exurgat Deus

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 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.

- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into
freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 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.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision
for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his
people!
Blessed be God!

First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

1 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#603 When Christ was lifted from the earth

The Third Reading

John 17:1-11

Jesus 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bob Lowe

Apostle's Creed

BCP p 96

Presider and People together, all standing

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.

Lord's Prayer

BCP p 97

The people stand or kneel

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People: Suffrages A

BCP p 97

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

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.**

Collect for Sunday

BCP p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Renewal of Life

BCP p. 99

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

BCP p. 100

(Choose only one Collect)

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or this

Presider: O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or the following

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you: for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn.....#495 Hail, thou once despised Jesus

The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 101

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Closing Hymn.....#494 Crown him with many crowns

Then may be said

Presider: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

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

The Presider may then conclude with one of the following

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Presider: May the God of hope fill us with all the joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

Presider: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude.....James Reifinger, Organist
Postlude Arnold Cooke

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Preacher</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Reader</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Greeter</i>	Sheila and Jude Thiele
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Paula Fetherston
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Organist</i>	James Reifinger

Notes on the Service

Last Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14 • Ps 68:1-10,33-36 • I Pet 4:12-14 • Jn 17:1-11

Ascension Day, this past Thursday, marked the return of Christ to the Father. Referring to that exaltation of Christ, today's collect also looks forward to next Sunday's feast, Pentecost, as it asks for the Spirit, who would come to the disciples on Pentecost. In composing this collect for today, "Expectation Sunday," the 1549 Prayer Book's author used lines from a 7th century service for Ascension Eve.

The serial readings of excerpts from Acts which served as first lessons during Eastertide have ended. Today's passage reverts to the opening chapter of Acts. When the risen Christ promises his disciples the Spirit, they misconstrue him to mean that he is about to restore Judea's independence from the Roman Empire. Jesus answers it is not for them to know the date of that. Next Luke summarizes the story of Jesus' ascension, mentioning two men in white whom he had also reported at the empty tomb at Easter. Then Luke names the eleven who, together with Mary, other women, and Jesus' brothers, return to the upper room, the Cenacle, to wait for what is to come next. That will be the promised Spirit.

Psalm 68 opens with a rallying-cry used by the Israelites during their trek through Sinai. Vv 5-6 call God the help of the helpless; in vv 7-10 a thunderstorm accompanies God; vv 11-20, omitted, is a war song. The Psalm's general tone of triumph, and particularly v 18, "gone up on high," [also omitted, probably because modern translations prefer "ascend the holy mount"] and its v 34, "He rides in the heavens," make this chant, which might be from David's time, applicable to Christ's victory.

Eastertide readings from I Peter conclude today with another warning that suffering might come, and another exhortation not to suffer for crimes but for righteous acts, as did Jesus. One purpose of I Peter must have been to steel Christians for persecution or for the judgment, or both: "the fiery ordeal." A connection between this epistle and the message of Pentecost is the assurance that "the [S]pirit of glory and of God is resting upon you."

In eternity, the ascended Christ intercedes for us. Likewise, today's Gospel shows the earthly Christ interceding for his disciples on the night before his arrest. Speaking as one whose destiny is completed, Jesus says to the Father that he has "accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do....I am no longer in the world...." In John's Gospel, Christ's death is his glorification, whereas the church's ordinary liturgical observance follows Luke in seeing Christ's glorificati.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina

Thank you for visiting Christ Episcopal Church!

Who are We?

We are a community, forgiven and loved by God, joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

Known throughout Cape Girardeau as "the Red Door Church" by those we serve, our mission is to share God's love and grace.

When are our Services?

On Sundays, there are Morning Prayer services every Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Services are held 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. on Sundays and Evening Prayer is from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays.

We are hosting a Bible study group before service at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays as well.

