



The Feast of the Ascension

May 29th, 2025 | 7:00 p.m

St. Martin's Episcopal & St. Stephen Lutheran

The Word of God

Opening Hymn *Hail the day that sees him rise*

Blue Hymnal 214

Opening Acclamation

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

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise *Wonder, Love, & Praise 880*

1. **God's Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us; Therefore with joy we keep the Easter feast; forsaking sin, we share the bread of truth. Alleluia, Alleluia!**
2. **Now Christ is raised and will not die again; death has no more dominion over him; Through him we die to sin and live to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Reading Acts 1:1-11

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?" Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, 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 end of the earth." After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47 *(said responsively by whole verse)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



The Gospel Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I'm sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power." He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Pastor Jon Nelson

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Gathered as one Body, called to witness Christ's glory and ascension into heaven, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all in need, as we say Risen and ascended Christ, Lift our hearts to you. God of glory, your Son has ascended to reign at your right hand. Strengthen your Church to be his Body in the world. Bless our Bishops; our clergy; and all ministers of the Gospel in every tradition. May St. Martin's and St. Stephen raise bold and joyful witness to your love. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.** God of justice, you reign above all powers and dominions. Guide the nations with wisdom. Stir the hearts of leaders to seek peace, dismantle systems of oppression, and uphold the dignity of every person. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.** God of mercy, you lift the lowly and hear the cry of the suffering. Tend the needs of the poor, the weary, and the forgotten. We remember all those in our community who are in need, especially those we now name aloud or silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* Surround them with your healing and hope. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.** God of creation, as Christ ascends, he fills all things. Open our eyes to your presence in the skies and seas, in fields and forests. Make us faithful stewards of all you have made. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.** God of community, you bind us together in love. Bless the people of St. Martin's Episcopal and St. Stephen Lutheran, and all congregations walking together in faith. Deepen our unity, that we may share your gospel with humility and joy. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.** God of promise, you draw all things to yourself. We give thanks for Stephen, Martin, and all the saints who have gone before us, and especially for those who have died in the hope of the resurrection. May we, too, be drawn into your eternal presence. Risen and ascended Christ, **Lift our hearts to you.**

Presider: Almighty God, by your grace you have raised your Son to reign in glory. Hear the prayers we offer and make us witnesses of your risen life, that we may proclaim your love to all the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Welcome & Announcements

The Offertory

This evening's offering will go to support Williamsburg House of Mercy The Williamsburg House of Mercy is committed to providing resources our less fortunate neighbors in Greater Williamsburg. Their focus is Food Insecurity, Outreach Financial Assistance, Harbor Day Shelter, and the Hope Pregnancy Center.

The Anthem *Come Thou Fount*

St. Martin's Bell Choir

The Doxology

TUNE: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia.

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Communion

from Enriching our Worship

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave

breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ: **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!** Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Stephen, blessed Martin, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Music During Communion *The Love of God*

The Rev. Joshua Nelson

The Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Be thou my vision*

Blue Hymnal 487

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**