



**“THIS SAME JESUS, WHO HAS BEEN
TAKEN FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN,
WILL COME BACK IN THE SAME WAY
YOU HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.”**

ACTS 1:11, NIV

May 16, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Office: (510) 793-6285

May 16, 2021
7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

[Click here for a video of the service](#)

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

PRELUDE . . . *“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Holy Spirit, be with us in our worship this day.

All: Draw us ever closer to you, that we may become one.

P: Draw us ever closer to your word,

All: that we may be wise.

P: Draw us ever closer to your world,

All: that we may serve and love as you guide us to do.

P: In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: To worship and pray,

All: we have come this day.

L: To meditate on God's teachings,

All: we have come this day.

L: Gathered as one family of Christ,

All: we come together in love.

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism

P: O God, we have not lived our lives as kingdom people.

All: We place our crowns on hopelessness, fear, and selfishness.

P: We are ruled by our schedules and our need for control.

All: We make rulers of the things we acquire and our immediate desires.

P: We forget that your kingdom draws near to us on earth, as it is in heaven.

All: Forgive us, we pray.

P: Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

All: Amen.

Silence for reflection

P: The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us and calls us "kingdom people." In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

GREETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

LITANY

L: Too often, God, we are hesitant in our proclamation;

All: seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

L: Too often, God, we are half-hearted in our service;

All: reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

L: Too often, God, we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;

All: relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

L: Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith

All: and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence of our Risen, Living and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us.

All: Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: God of light and love,

All: open our hearts to your message of unity.

Reader: Open our minds to the light of your wisdom.

All: Open our lives to the call of your Spirit.

Reader: Reveal to us your holy presence,

All: as we listen and learn this day. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

READING . . . *Acts 1:1-14*

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit

to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Bless these gifts to be nourishment for a world hungry for your grace.

All: Bless us to be nurturers of love for a world hungry for your compassion.

L: Bless us to be one in ministry with you

All: and with one another, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

All: As people of faith we now return to the world.

P: Go out to share the story of faith, the story of life, with the world around you.

All: We share the faith in word and in deed, in speech and in action.

P: As you go out to give a living witness, as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world, go knowing that God goes with you, sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.



DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE . . . “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgists: Steve Guerzon & Pamela Metcalf

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

