

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
**MAY 29, 2022 - Easter 7**  
**Father Michael Fleming**

Fr. Michael: As we stand with the apostles on the Mount of Olives and watch Jesus ascend to the Father, we remember that this sacred space and the places we call our homes are located on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe people.

People: **May we continue our journey together in a spirit of hope, trust and reconciliation.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: We thank you Lord for your benevolent nature. While your Son was taken up to heaven, he blessed us here on this good earth. We pray that we do not take for granted the blessings that you have given us and may we receive them with our whole hearts. On the Ascension Sunday, Lord, we give you the glory, honour and praise because of who you are and because of all that you have done for us. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Ascended One. (ConnectUs 2022)

Fr. Michael: As community called, blessed and gathered, we pray, Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Fr..Michael: On this day of Ascension, we join with all the saints gathered around the heavenly throne and all those gathered together here on this good earth and acclaim, Glory to God in the highest...

People: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your plan and purpose for this world you enable us to hear and respond to the gospel message of hope and salvation. We thank you that, as you did so, you bestowed on us the Holy Spirit to seal our relationship with you so we might inherit all your blessings. Enable us by your Spirit to be more and more a people of praise so that you may be glorified in our lives and in our faith family.

**Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God, your Son Jesus ascended to the heavenly throne so that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of your Spirit and in the bond of his peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**Amen**

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1: 1-11)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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."

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Here we are Lord, filled with life and breathe, citizens in the land of the living by your grace. You know our paths and the help we will need to keep our feet firm. In this time of worship, equip us to be your upright followers. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Reader: Our psalm for today is Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you people! Sing to God! Sing to the Lord with songs of joy! For Yahweh reigns over all the earth and subdues those who would do us harm, putting all nations into our care. God chose as our heritage the women and men who went before us, honoured by God called "beloved".

People: **EI Shaddai comes to the sound of glad shouts and music! Everyone sings the praises of our God. The love of the Lord is sovereign in all the world. Sing psalms to celebrate God's gentle reign! Holiness is the seat of the authority of Adonai!**

Reader: The children of the God of Abraham and Sarah gather as leaders together. They deliver all the weapons of the earth to the Lord and Yahweh is exalted forever.

People: **Alleluia and Alleluia!** (from Swallow's Nest by Marcienne Vroon Rienstra 1992)

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to his sisters and brothers in Ephesus (Ephesians 1: 15-23)

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which

he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Word of the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord, we acknowledge that you are the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you will give us the wisdom and the revelation to know you better. Enlighten our hearts and minds so that we may know the hope to which you call us, what are the riches of our glorious inheritance as your people and is the immeasurable greatness of your power towards those who believe. You worked all this when you raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at your right hand in the heavenly places. We thank you that you have put all things under his feet and gave him as head of all things to your Church which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. **Amen**

Holy Gospel Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Ascended Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Luke ( St. Luke 24: 44-53)

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

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Fr. Michael: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Fr. Michael: We are the Church of Jesus Christ who hold certain truths in our hearts. As the heartbeat of God, we affirm, I believe in one God,

People: **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**

Reader: You are free, Lord – your ascension has set you free, free from all the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space; free to be with us here and now in our worship and in our fellowship and free to be with us always, for in your freedom you have bound yourself to us with a promise,

People: **Lo, I am with you always, even to the very end of time.**

Reader: We pray Lord for those who need to feel you close, who need the assurance of your love and the encouragement of your Spirit. We pray for those whose faith has wavered or is lost, for those seeking new paths to spirituality; and those who cry out in the wilderness of their lives, “Where are you Lord?”

People: **Lo, I am with you always even to the very end of time.**

Reader: We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, those who are mocked or attacked because of their faith, their race or their colour. We hold especially this day the women and girls of Afghanistan, the widows and orphans in Ukraine; for those who are imprisoned, tortured, exiled because they have spoken out and fought for the rights of all people. Help them to find you in the chaos and to remember,

People: **Lo I am with you always, even to the end of time.**

Reader: We pray for the hungry, the destitute, the lost, the lonely; we remember all refugees either on the road or in deplorable camps all around the world. We pray for all those who struggle on their behalf, remembering the work of UNICEF and the UNHCR who serve in the heart of danger. Guide their hands and hearts as they minister to others and help them to hear, from the heart of the pain they see and hear,

People: **Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of time.** (moment of silence)

Reader: We pray for your Church and all faith communities who strive to be faithful to the creeds and doctrines of mercy, hope and compassion. In our diocesan cycle this week, we pray for Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as the Area Parish of the St. Lawrence, the Venerable Peter Crosby, the Reverend Adam Brown, the Reverend Cynthia MacLachlan and Deacon Richard Matthias and the Area Parish of South Carleton, the Reverend Carolyn Seabrook and the Reverend Allan Budzin.

We also pray for the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen, its groups and members. In our parish, we remember those who have either asked us to pray in the depths of our hearts (moment of silence) and in our community prayer - Cheryl, Zachariah, Marjorie, Sarah, Roy, Howard, Irene, Scott, and Jeanette. Help your people hear you say,

People: **Lo, I am with you always even to the end of time.**

Reader: We remember those who are discouraged, those who are feeling fed up, for the broken-hearted; for those who are afraid; for those who wander aimlessly seeking light and love; for the bereaved. May they find their resting-place in you as you say to them.

People: **Lo, I am with you always even to the end of time.**

Reader: We pray for those who have been affected by COVID and all its side-effects: loss of jobs, loss of homes, loss of friends and family. We pray for all those dedicated to the pastoral care of those who suffer through no fault of their own and pray that they may find comfort and strength as you say,

People: **Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of time.**

Reader: Be with us all, Lord, in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you; be with us all Lord, in our periods of doubt and despair and also in our times of happiness, health and loving; be with us all Lord until that time when in your Kingdom of love our joy will know no bounds and we will hear you welcome us home saying,

People: **Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of time.**

(from Starters for Sunday, Church of Scotland 2020)

Fr. Michael: While we claim to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, the way we live sometimes shows our lack of faith in God's power to deal with this world. Let us confess the gaps between our declaration of faith and our practice of the same.

People: **We come, O Lord, on this day of celebration to confess to you our lack of trust sometimes. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of the events of today. Help us to live in the sure confidence of your promises this day and in hope for life with you forever. Amen**

(from re:Worship 2022)

Fr. Michael: Creating God, you have created for us a path through the wilderness and lead us home to where you wait in joy and hope. Sisters and brothers, know this: we are loved, honoured and cherished by the Creating One who heals us with the Son and the Holy Spirit, today and always.

Fr. Michael: The peace and love of the Risen and Ascended Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with yourself.**

WE SHARE THE SHALOM OF GOD'S PEACE AND HOPE

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all that we offer you this day and renew us in your transfigured and ascended life.

People: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

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

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: But chiefly are we bound to praise you through your dearly beloved Son who, after his glorious resurrection, manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight,

ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for you; that where he is, there we might be also and reign with him in glory. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels, archangels and all the choirs of heaven, to speak of your glorious life:

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.**

Fr. Michael: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. On the night that he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks saying, "Take this and eat it: this is my body, broken for you. " In the same way, he took the cup of wine saying, "Drink this, all of you. This my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering therefore his death and resurrection and his ascension, we offer you this bread and this wine, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and the gathering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you the glory through your servant Jesus. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church now and forever. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted to his Church, we pray,

People: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Fr. Michael: We were buried in your tomb.

People: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Fr. Michael: Live in us as we live in you.

**WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF A LOVING GOD WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, giver of life and power, your Son Jesus has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Holy Spirit, Powerful Consoler, sacred bond of the Father and of the Son, hope of the afflicted: descend into our hearts and establish in us your loving dominion; enkindle in our lukewarm souls the fire of your Love so that we may be wholly subject to you. We believe that when you dwell in us, you also prepare a dwelling-place for the father and the Son. Come therefore to us, Consoler of abandoned souls and Protector of the needy.

Fr. Michael: Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak and support those who waver. Come and purify us and let no evil desire take possession of us. You love the humble and you resist the

proud. Come to us, glory of the living and hope for the dying and lead us by your grace that we may always be pleasing to you. **Amen**

(St. Augustine of Hippo)

People: **Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son who was with us for only a short while. Thank you for being the living water that quenches the thirst of all those who long for you. We give you praise for the power you give us through the Resurrection and because of you and you alone that we too can have everlasting life with you. We pray that we do not take this for granted on this special day of Ascension nor on any day. Amen**

Fr. Michael: Lord God our Father, Creator: we thank you for the gift of this parish of Holy Trinity, for those who come here seeking you and for all those who minister in any way in this place. Inspire us with your vision to set our roots deeply and firmly in the faith that we may be stewards of justice in all your creation. Lord God Jesus, Saviour and Redeemer: we thank you for your continuing presence in our parish family. Inspire us to seek you in Scripture, the Sacraments and one another, that we may be faithful to your call to evangelism and love.

Fr. Michael: Lord God Holy Spirit, Sustainer and Renewer: we thank you for all the wondrous gifts you have poured upon us. Inspire us to serve you in body and in spirit; help us to share our gifts of time, talents, creativity and financial offering and open us to your renewing life-giving power. O God -Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we praise you, we love you, we seek you and we serve you in the name of Jesus our Redeemer, our Friend and our Brother. **Amen**  
(RMF)

Fr. Michael: Loving God, you give us that peace which the world cannot give. By the power of your Holy Spirit calm our troubled and fearful hearts and fill them with rejoicing as we await Jesus' glorious return. And the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – be with you and yours, those whom you love and those who love you this day and always. Amen