



# SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

*The Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Dear friends:

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead. We give thee thanks for all thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them thy mercy and the light of thy presence; and give us such a lively sense of thy righteous will, that the work which thou hast begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 488

It is Memorial Day. The prayer, above, entered our prayer book in the 1928 edition and is taken from a worship book used by the American armed forces in World War I. The author of this prayer is unknown, as is the case for so many women and men throughout the ages who have served our country by standing for deeply held beliefs and values with their lives. Beyond a close circle of family and friends these individuals are often forgotten, but their service and sacrifice has allowed us the privilege to enjoy the lives we have.

This Memorial Day finds our fellow citizens in uniform still serving around the world, and lives are still being lost in areas of conflict. This sad truth never seems to change. There are also others, many of who are neighbors, whose service puts them in harm's way during this time of pandemic – medical professionals and those who support them, mail carriers and delivery people, sanitation workers, government employees who provide vital community services, those who work in grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services, to name a few. The responsibilities and burdens they carry are unimaginable to me.

Thousands of people are putting their lives on the line to do their job, to support their families, and to work to maintain the basic welfare of our society. They deserve our deepest respect and fervent commitment to seeing that what they have given of themselves is not forgotten once this crisis has passed. Many of these dedicated individuals have lost their lives after contracting the Covid-19 virus. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to repay. This pandemic has placed an obligation

on all of us who have not been required to put our lives and health at risk to strive to make a better life for those who have either by the nature of their work, the communities in which they live, or the neglect with which our culture has treated them.

There are no easy answers on how to address these challenges, but a first step might be to deeply and prayerfully consider what others are going through right now. Since there won't be any massive barbecues for fifty of our favorite friends or sales at big box stores to fill parking lots (at least I hope there won't), maybe this Memorial Day can be a day it is meant to be: to truly remember and be grateful for those who have and who continue to make our lives possible. If we are honest with ourselves about the sacrifices of others, we will not be able to allow ourselves to let life go back to "normal" once this pandemic is defeated. If we do, we will have learned nothing and will be forced to do all of this again. If that happens the unimaginable will become a supremely tragic reality for us all.

God bless,  
Fr. Alan



Above: Detail of the Venerable Bede stained glass window at St. Andrew's K. Riedel

**Prelude:** *L'Ascension*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

1. Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père

Hear the prelude as performed by the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra: <https://youtu.be/sXxHBSazWmE> (ends at 5:31)

## The Collect

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.

## First Lesson: 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.

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

Hear the entire psalm as performed by the Norwich Cathedral Choir:

<https://youtu.be/XNXXYO50mJA>

- 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!

### **The Epistle:** I 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.

## The Gospel: 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.”

### **Anthem:** *God is Gone Up*

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

*God is gone up with a triumphant shout: the Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies: sing praise, sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise! Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the King of Glory enter in. Me-thinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly, in flakes of glory down him to attend, and hear hear-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascend; mixing their music, making ev'ry string more to enravish as they this tune sing.*

Hear the anthem as performed by the choir of Wells Cathedral:  
[https://youtu.be/Y\\_67yfarok](https://youtu.be/Y_67yfarok)

## The Prayers

Blessed Lord, who has taught us that in ministering to the needs of others we are ministering to you: Fill our hearts with your own spirit of love and self-sacrifice, and teach us so to see you in all our sisters and brothers that we may serve them gladly for your sake; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

Before you can have a new beginning, there must be an ending. Before new habits can take hold, old habits have to die. Before you can begin a new chapter, you must turn the page on the old chapter. St. Paul put it this way: When I was a child, I thought like a child. But now that I have become an adult, I have put away childish things.

This is where we stand today. One event has ended (Ascension). Another event is just about to begin (Pentecost). Before the heavenly ministry of Jesus' presence in Pentecost can begin, the earthly ministry of Jesus' presence with the disciples must end. But that is not the end of the story; it is only the end of a chapter in the story of salvation. That is the theme of the first lesson (Acts 1:6-14). "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go." The ascension of Jesus will end one way of knowing Jesus and will be followed by a second coming of Jesus at the time of Pentecost.

This is also the theme of our Gospel reading (John 17:1-11). Jesus first mentions his Ascension: "Father, the hour has now come; glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you..." Then Jesus mentions Pentecost: "... since you have given him authority over all people..." Then Jesus sets forth the goal of both events: "This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Many scholars and commentators call these chapters "Jesus' High Priestly Prayer." Given its place as the pivot point between Ascension and Pentecost, perhaps a better title might be this: "Jesus' Commencement Address." In a commencement address, speakers trace the path the students have taken and what they have learned before challenging them to turn the page and look to what they can do in the future.

Jesus asked God: "...glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you..." How did Jesus glorify God? Jesus said: "I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." What was the work he finished? Jesus glorified God by doing what God wanted him to do in his teaching, healing, miracles, obedient life and sacrificial death. This is how it all began: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we beheld his glory..." Pass it on.

So it continued. Jesus met a Samaritan women at a well and engaged her in dialogue. In that meeting, she beheld the glory of God and was so changed that she forgot her bucket at the well to run and tell others. The Samaritan

woman met Jesus and entered into eternal life. In running to talk to her neighbors, she did the work God called her to do. Pass it on.

Then Jesus met a man born blind and engaged him in conversation. Jesus cured his blindness and allowed him to see first-hand the glory of God. This knowledge so changed him that he was able to enter into eternal life. He now knew Jesus came from God. In professing faith in Jesus even to hostile religious authorities, he did the work God called him to do. Pass it on.

So it is with us. A few months ago, Carol Bennett stood in this pulpit to preach. She began by having us sing “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.” In her sermon, she glorified God, God was glorified in her and we beheld the glory of God in her words. She did the work God called her to do. She entered into eternal life. Pass it on.

During our long silence in the midst of the pandemic, people in this congregation took it upon themselves to call those who were elderly, vulnerable or alone. In doing this, they glorified God, God was glorified in them and we experienced the glory of God in what they did. They did the work God called them to do. They entered into eternal life. Pass it on.

When we gather together here in worship once again, the love, care and mutual affection we show to each other in passing the peace, in singing together, in praying together and participating in the Eucharist together, kneeling or standing side by side, we glorify God. God is glorified in us. We beheld the glory of God shining amongst us. We have entered into eternal life. So let us continue to do the work God has called us to do. Pass it on.

So far, from Advent through Easter we have been students who listen. Now that we have listened to Jesus’ Commencement Address, we need to stop being listeners only and become teachers who put into practice what we have learned. We have seen the glory of God. We know whom we have believed. We have entered into eternal life. So let us do the work God calls us to do. Pass it on.

## **Closing Hymn:** *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Hear the hymn as performed by our congregation on Easter 2017:  
<https://youtu.be/Ry4Tj6W63Tg>

Permission to podcast/stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-718890.

*Special thanks to Monica Dering for providing this video  
of the Rev. Sally Webster’s last Easter with the parish.*

## Directory Updates Needed

### In the last year, did you or members of your household...

- ▶ **Move to a new house, apartment, or condo?**  
Let us know your new mailing address!
- ▶ **Disconnect your landline?**  
Please be sure to give the office your cell phone number so that we can reach you.
- ▶ **Switch to a new cell phone number?**  
Don't forget to tell us whose cell phone it is.
- ▶ **Have a child?**  
Congratulations on your new addition!  
We'd love to know their name and birth date.
- ▶ **Change your preferred email address?**  
If you'd like to be added to our email list for parish announcements and eService Bulletins, please let Kathy know.



If you need to update any part of your directory listing - please email Kathy at [kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org).

## Announcements

### Attention 2020 Grads!

If you have not yet heard from Carol regarding your 2020 High School / College graduates, please contact her at [caferguson@standrewsaa.org](mailto:caferguson@standrewsaa.org) so we can recognize your achievement. Thank you!

### **REMINDER: The Church building remains CLOSED**

While many of you have keys to the church, we must reemphasize that the church is closed. ***Please do not let yourself into any part of the church for any reason unless you are coming to serve Breakfast or have received permission directly from Fr. Alan.***

A few staff members are coming in on a very infrequent basis to maintain basic operations of the church. It is vital that we limit access to our buildings in order to keep everyone well and as safe as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.