

Trinity Presbyterian Church + *Worship at Home*

May 24th, 2020 - 10 a.m.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: **ASCENSION SUNDAY**

The Kingdom of God is the new world order that Christ established in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension; a new order of things that will be fully revealed and established on at Christ's return.

-Peter Leithart

Call to Worship/ Easter Acclamation

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

If desired, you can make some noise during every Sunday of Easter!

PRAISE

Hymn **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name** — music on page 2

601 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall.
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery tongue and ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball,
 4 Oh, that with all the sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all!

Optional acclamation (Rev. 1:5b)

To him who loves us and has freed us
 from our sins by his blood,
 and has made us to be a
 kingdom and priests
 to serve his God and Father—
**to him be glory and power
 for ever and ever! Amen.**

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.
 Words: st. 1-3 Edward Perronet, 1780, alt., st. 4 John Rippon, 1787, alt., P.D.
 Music (CORONATION 8.6.8.6.8.6): Oliver Holden, 1793, P.D.

Prayer of Adoration (the *Te Deum laudamus*¹, prayed in unison)

You are God: we praise you;
you are the Lord: we acclaim you;
you are the eternal Father: all creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
 Father, of majesty unbounded,
 your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
 and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
 bought with the price of your own blood,
 and bring us with your saints
 to glory everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

All ye who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others take your part.
Sing his praises. Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care.
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness.
O praise him. Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

¹ A 5th century Christian prayer of praise.

RENEWAL

Confession of Sin (unison)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and we have not acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have conformed to the ways of the world, and we have failed to give Christ glory. Forgive us, we pray, and by your Spirit empower us to live as your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who rules over all things and who is head of his body, the church. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement & Declaration of Pardon

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest [Jesus] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. [Hebrews 10:11-14 (NIV)]

Words of Welcome

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements are found on pages 9-12

Hymn **A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing** — music on page 5

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A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Unison D Asus A D

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through -
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 O Lord, our home - ward path - way bend that our un -
 4 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to

Asus A D G A D Em7 (A)

out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ,
 Mount of Ol - ives stands, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and
 wea - ried hearts as - cend, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! where,
 you let earth ac - cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You

D Asus A D Asus A

by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 with his faith - ful fol - lowers see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 seat - ed on your Fa - ther's throne, you reign as King of kings a - lone.
 are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

Refrain Bm A D Em7 A C#m7(5) D Asus A D

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

For an alternate arrangement see 317, 551, 847
 Words: Bede (673-735); tr. Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music (LASST UNS ERFREUEN 8.8.8.8 with alleluias): Auserlesen Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne,
 1623; arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

COMMITMENT

Scripture Lesson: Acts 1:1-14 (Read by Ann Higgins)

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. [NRSV]

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER"

Steve Magneson

Confession of Faith: "The Benefits of the Ascension"

213 Affirmation: The Benefits of the Ascension

How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

**First, he is our advocate in heaven
in the presence of his Father.**

**Second, we have our own flesh in heaven
as a sure pledge that Christ our head
will also take us, his members, up to himself.**

**Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth
as a corresponding pledge.
By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things
but the things above, where Christ is,
sitting at God's right hand.**

Text: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 49

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since we cannot gather for Holy Communion, we join in an act of *spiritual communion*, trusting in our Lord's blessings & love in this present crisis.

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Communion. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors.**

**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

Hymn Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise — music on page 8

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise 323

F Dm F/A Gm/Bb C F/A C7/G F Bb/D F/C Gm7/Bb C F

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 There for him high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 See! the heaven its Lord re - ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 See! he lifts his hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!

Dm F/A Gm/Bb C F/A C7/G F Bb/D F/C Gm7/Bb C F

to his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
 yet he loves the earth he leaves, Al - le - lu - ia!
 See, he shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Dm C/E F Bb C7/G F C F C/E F G7/D C F/C C

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he has con - quered death and sin. Al - le - lu - ia!
 though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!

F F/A F Dm F/A Gm/Bb C F/A C7/G F Bb/D F/C Gm7/Bb C F

en - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 still he calls the world his own. Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!

Benediction & Dismissal

Minister: All our problems...

People: we send to the cross of Christ.

Minister: All our difficulties...

People: we send to the cross of Christ.

Minister: All the devil's works...

People: we send to the cross of Christ.

Minister: All our hopes...

People: we set on the risen Christ.

Minister: Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path: and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

—from the Anglican Church of Kenya

Leader: Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude Crown Him with Many Crowns — George J. Elvey, Arr. by Gina Sprunger

WORSHIP ARTISTS

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Trinity Church. We Appreciate all that your music has contributed to our worship. Copyrighted songs are covered under CCLI #1250499 and CCS #11071.

TAMMY LUM - PIANO, ORGAN

JORDAN WILHELM - VOICE

ALETHEA WILHELM - VOICE

Trinity Church Announcements CELEBRATING CHRIST, SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

TODAY

Easter Season. The Easter Season, the most festive of all the seasons of the church year, lasts for fifty days, beginning on Easter Day and continuing through the Day of Pentecost (this year on May 31). The first week of the Easter Season is known as Easter Week, a seven-day intensive feast celebrating the resurrection of Jesus!

- **Ascension Sunday & Pentecost.** This past Thursday, May 24, was one of the principal festivals of the year, Ascension Day, which always falls on a Thursday because Jesus ascended to heaven forty days after he was raised from the dead. We celebrate the ascension of Jesus today. Next Sunday is one of the three major feasts—the Day of Pentecost!

- **Thy Kingdom Come.** From Ascension Day through the Day of Pentecost (May 31), we encourage you specifically to pray for the mission of the church around the world. Here is a prayer: “Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: Inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Prayer Focus for Easter through Trinity Sunday. As we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection, we pray for new life in our hearts, in the church, and around the world..

- for the church to flourish in nations where there are very few followers of Jesus—and for those taking the gospel to those peoples;
- for ministries of church planting & growth—especially for our Presbytery, the Redeemer Network, and Resurrection Brooklyn;
- For the members of the Armed Forces, including those from our church and especially those serving far from home, and for military chaplains, especially Chaplain Tim Fary, his family, & his ministry as an Army chaplain Ft. Benning; and
- For Trinity Church to grow, thrive, & flourish; pray especially for God’s blessings on our pastors & their families, for our building project, & for all our ministries.

May is Military Appreciation Month. During the coming month, please give thanks & pray for the service of the men and women in our Armed Forces, particularly those serving away from home—and especially for those serving in the fight against this global pandemic.

Fourtify Resumes this Sunday! Students from 4th-8th grade are invited to join us for a brief “Fourtify” time with Pastor Magneson. We will meet for games, discussion, and a quick introduction to the Sunday sermon. Meeting will be approximately 30 minutes, beginning at 10am on Sundays. Email Pastor Magneson for the Zoom link, SteveMagneson@trinitychurch.cc.

The Easter Sacrificial Offering is received each year during the Easter season, with the money going to the church’s ministry to those facing need. Please give generously, as many are hurting and we expect increasing calls for help to our Mercy Team. See instructions below on giving. For the ESO, choose “Mercy Fund” for your designation.

COVID-19 Support - On our church website, www.trinitychurchny.com, you will find a link labeled “COVID-19 Update” which is a letter from our pastors encouraging us all to be there for one another, and to assist you in doing so that we might BE the church God intends us to be. There are links to forms to Glve Help (volunteer) and Get Help (specify a need). Please visit this “COVID-19 Update” link so you can become familiar with it and participate.

COMING UP

SERMON SCHEDULE

May 24. Ascension Sunday. Acts 1:6-14. “You Will Receive Power.” Pastor Magneson preaching
May 31. THE DAY OF PENTECOST. John 7:37-39. “The River of Life.” Pastor Swanson preaching
June 7. TRINITY SUNDAY. John 4:31-42. “White Unto Harvest.” Pastor Higgins preaching

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

A QUESTIONING FAITH: Good Theology Welcomes Honest Questions. Pastor Higgins has often taught that no honest question should ever be swept under the rug! That is why he is beginning a series of short (20-30 minute) conversations with pastors, theologians, and other thought leaders, which will then be available (on video or audio) podcast-style through Trinity Church. Your questions are welcome! If there's something you've often wanted to ask—about the Christian faith & its practical ramifications in the real world—email those questions to CraigHiggins@trinitychurch.cc, with "In the Meantime" in the subject line. Questions from those investigating the Christian faith are especially welcome, but we encourage everyone (even if you're new to Trinity Church) to ask questions. He will be putting information about upcoming discussions up in our social media feeds. So, stay tuned.

Adult Book Club. Do you ever struggle to see God in the mundane rituals of daily life? Tish Harrison Warren says we need "to learn a way of being-in-the-world that transforms us, day by day, by the rhythms of repentance and faith...the slow habits of loving God and those around us." In her book, "[The Liturgy of the Ordinary](#)," we will be reading and discussing together just how we meet God in the most seemingly mundane moments of life. RSVP by email to MarkSwanson@trinitychurch.cc to sign up. You can purchase the book from [Amazon](#). Adult Book Club is now meeting on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

Evening Compline Prayer Sessions UPDATED Schedule. Pastor Mark Swanson will be hosting brief prayer sessions for the congregation live on both Facebook and Instagram as a means of staying connected. It will **now only be on Monday & Wednesday** evenings at 8 pm. Login to Facebook and head to the *Trinity Presbyterian Church NY* Facebook page to participate. Reminders of these meetings will be posted to the church Facebook page and church calendar.

We Upgraded Our Mobile App, *TrinityChurchNY*, recently. To install the new one (free, no login required) go to the App Store (Apple) or GooglePlay Store (Android) and download the *TrinityChurchNY* app to your phone or tablet. Note: when it is downloaded, it may have a temporary name of "Trinity PC. We recommend that you [Do allow notifications](#) so that if we need to reach everyone with a text message (i.e. cancellations, delays, reminders) you would be notified also. You can listen to the Sunday podcasts using the mobile app plus use other handy features.

Community Groups Meeting via Video-Conferencing. Our Community Group leaders are using Zoom to conduct their weekly community group. If you are not yet in a community group but would like to join one, contact us via our church website contact form.

Prayer Team Support. Our Prayer Team is always available to support you - especially during this trying period. You can submit a prayer request directly through the church website Contact Form (posted above).

Pastoral Care. If you would like to meet with a pastor, feel free to call the church office 914-967-6247 and choose from the voice menu who you wish to speak to, or by using the church website contact form and your request will be forwarded to them.

Giving Offering Online. We encourage giving online through our secure website link on our church website: <https://www.trinitychurchny.com/giving/> Or, through our mobile app, *TrinityChurchNY*. Your faithful giving is not only an act of worship but is much appreciated by the Trinity Church leadership as we desire to continue ministry no matter what adjustments are necessary to meet

current challenges. If giving by check, mail it to the address specified in the newsletter (faster processing), or the church office (slower).

Connecting via Social Media. If you are on Facebook, explore our church "Trinity Presbyterian Church NY" Facebook page and our "Trinity People Staying In Touch" Facebook *group*.

Regular Weekly Newsletters. The main way we will be in touch with everyone in the congregation is through the weekly newsletter. Sometimes you will receive more than one a week. It is important to stay informed. If anyone needs to be added, use the church website Contact form.

Two Steps in Prayer for the Trinity Church Vision Campaign

1. Prayer for God's timing as to when we might be released from our pause in the Vision Campaign and how we might resume it.
2. The offices will be closed, but we do encourage individual families to prayer walk the property, while maintaining proper social-distancing practices, during our pause. Please contact Pastor Mark at markswanson@trinitychurch.cc, if you are interested or have any questions.

Sharing Our Stories. On April 27th, New Yorker Magazine published an article called "April 15, 2020, A Coronavirus Chronicle: 24 Hours at the epicenter of the pandemic". It contained a series of vignettes of men and women from the Five Boroughs of NYC, each with a story to tell about their endurance under the COVID 19 world we have all become entangled in. The previous week, there have been several conversations among people from our community of Trinity Presbyterian Church NY, which have centered around the idea of Story. What are the stories from within our own faith community? Stories of our spiritual journeys, stories of how we are weathering this strange new life of social distancing, virtual meetups, and uncertain days ahead? One of the great gifts we can share with another person is our story, and so this month of May we are designating as "Sharing Our Story" month. Here's how you can participate:

- We want to encourage people to share how God is meeting them in the midst of the present circumstances we are all facing during this time of lockdown. We are at a time of significant disruption in our lives, and there are ways that God is at work: revealing his goodness and mercy in times of great suffering. Pastor Magneson will be interviewing Trinity Church Members and recording all of our stories during the month of May. Many of you have already had this opportunity, but we would love for everyone to participate! Email Steve, SteveMagneson@trinitychurch.cc, to schedule a time and share your story. This is a great opportunity to reflect, grow, lament, and seek God together.
- One way of developing one's story, and to have a renewed sense of how God answers prayer, is the spiritual discipline of journaling or chronicling our stories. We commend an article by Rachelle Dawson (see church mobile app) as a way to get started. If there are a group of people who would like to meet to get training or to encourage one another in this practice, please contact Pastor Mark at MarkSwanson@trinitychurch.cc.