



# THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY



AMERICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

YEAR C

## SEASONAL GREETING

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 READING

Acts 16:16-34

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.”

<sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. <sup>20</sup> And when they had brought

them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. <sup>21</sup> They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. <sup>24</sup> Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup> And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

OR

## 1 Samuel 12:19-24

And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.” <sup>20</sup> And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. <sup>22</sup> For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. <sup>23</sup> Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. <sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

## Psalm 68:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him also flee before him.

<sup>2</sup> As the smoke vanishes, so shall you drive them away; \*  
and as wax melts before the fire, so let the ungodly perish

before the presence of God.

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup> O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name; magnify  
him who rides upon the heavens. \*

The LORD is his Name; rejoice before him.

<sup>5</sup> He is a father of the fatherless and defends the cause of the  
widows, \*

God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup> He is the God who gives the solitary a home, and brings  
the prisoners out of captivity, \*

but lets the rebellious dwell in a desert land.

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth before the people, \*  
when you went through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup> The earth shook, and the heavens poured forth rain at the  
presence of God, \*

even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who  
is the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> You, O God, sent a gracious rain upon your inheritance \*  
and refreshed the land when it was weary.

<sup>10</sup> Your congregation found a dwelling there, \*  
for you, O God, of your goodness have provided for the  
poor.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord gave the word; \*

great was the company of those who proclaimed the tid-  
ings.

<sup>12</sup> Kings with their armies fled, they fled, \*

and the women at home divided the spoil.

<sup>13</sup> Though you have lain among the sheepfolds, \*

yet shall you be like the wings of a dove that are covered

with silver, and whose feathers shine like gold.

<sup>14</sup>When the Almighty scattered kings, \*  
it was as if it snowed in Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup>As the hill of Bashan, so is God's hill, \*  
even a high hill, as the hill of Bashan.

<sup>16</sup>Why look with envy, you high hills? This is God's hill, on  
which it pleases him to dwell; \*  
surely, the LORD will abide on it for ever.

<sup>17</sup>The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands  
of angels, \*  
and the Lord has come from Sinai into the holy place.

<sup>18</sup>You have gone up on high; you have led captivity captive,  
and received gifts from men, \*  
even from your enemies, that the LORD God might  
dwell among them.

<sup>19</sup>Praised be the Lord daily, \*  
even the God who helps us and pours his benefits upon  
us.

<sup>20</sup> He is our God, the God from whom salvation comes; \*  
God is the LORD, by whom we escape death.

OR

Psalm 47

<sup>1</sup> O clap your hands together, all you peoples; \*  
O cry aloud unto God with shouts of joy.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> He shall subdue the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.

<sup>4</sup> He shall choose our inheritance for us, \*

the pride of Jacob whom he loved.

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout of triumph, \*  
the LORD with the sound of the trumpet.

<sup>6</sup> O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; \*  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

<sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth; \*  
think upon his mighty acts and praise him with a song.

<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits on his holy throne.

<sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples are gathered with the people of  
the God of Abraham; \*  
for the mighty upon earth have become the servants of  
the LORD, and he is very highly exalted.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### Revelation 22:10-21

And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup> Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

<sup>12</sup> “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these

things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

<sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

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

### John 17:20-26

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even

as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

### PROPER PREFACE

#### *Ascension*

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who after his most glorious resurrection appeared to his Apostles, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory.

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