THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

Anglican Church in North America

Year B

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 1:15-26

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about
120) and said, **16** "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke
beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who
arrested Jesus. **17** For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."
18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he
burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. **19** And it became known to all the
inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is,
Field of Blood.) **20** "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went
in and out among us, **22** beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken
up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." **23** And
they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.
24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of
these two you have chosen **25** to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which
Judas turned aside to go to his own place." **26** And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on
Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

OR Exodus 28:1-4,9-10,29-30

"Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people
of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and
Ithamar. **2** And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beau-
ty. **3** You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make
Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood. **4** These are the garments that they
shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They
shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests.

9 You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, **10** six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth.

29 So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment on his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the LORD. **30** And in the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the LORD. Thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the LORD regularly.

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

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

2 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.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

4 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.

5 He is a father of the fatherless and defends the cause of the widows, * God in his holy habitation.

6 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.

7 O God, when you went forth before the people, *
when you went through the wilderness,

8 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.

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

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

11 The Lord gave the word; *
great was the company of those who proclaimed the tidings.

12 Kings with their armies fled, they fled, *
and the women at home divided the spoil.

13 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.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings, *
it was as if it snowed in Zalmon.

15 As the hill of Bashan, so is God's hill, *
even a high hill, as the hill of Bashan.

16 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.

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

18 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.

19 Praised be the Lord daily, *
even the God who helps us and pours his benefits upon us.

20 He is our God, the God from whom salvation comes; *
God is the LORD, by whom we escape death.

OR Psalm 47

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

2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He shall subdue the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.

4 He shall choose our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loved.

5 God has gone up with a shout of triumph, *
the LORD with the sound of the trumpet.

6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; *
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

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

8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits on his holy throne.

9 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.

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:6-15

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7

For there are three that testify: [8] the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. [9] If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. [10] Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. [11] And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[13] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. [14] And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

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 17:11b-19

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. [12] While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. [13] But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. [14] I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [15] I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [17] Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. [18] As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. [19] And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.