

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Ascension Sunday**  
**May 21, 2023**

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space  
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



**PRELUDE** *Your Still Small Voice*

*by Douglas E. Wagner*

A bell rings three times; the people stand

**PRESENTATION OF THE WORD**

**ENTRANCE HYMN #450** *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name (Vs. 1-3)*

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Crown him ye martyrs of our God, who from his altar call:  
praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!  
praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!

Hail him, the Heir of David's line, whom David Lord did call,  
the God incarnate, Man divine, and crown him Lord of all!  
the God incarnate, Man divine, and crown him Lord of all!

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

## SONG OF PRAISE S 280 *Glory to God*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' and a bracket) over the notes for 'Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther', 'take a - way the sin of the world', and 'High, Je - sus Christ'. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

***People***            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

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 1:6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

So when they had come together, they asked him, "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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM: 68: 1-10, 33-36**

- <sup>1</sup>Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;\*  
let those who hate him flee before him.
- <sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;\***  
**as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**
- <sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;\*  
let them be jubilant with joy.
- <sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to his name;**  
**lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds \***  
**his name is the LORD, be exultant before him.**
- <sup>5</sup>Father of orphans and protector of widows\*  
is God in his holy habitation.
- <sup>6</sup>**God gives the desolate a home to live in;**  
**he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, \***  
**but the rebellious live in a parched land.**
- <sup>7</sup>O God, when you went out before your people,\*  
when you marched through the wilderness, Selah
- <sup>8</sup>**the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain**  
**at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \***  
**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- <sup>9</sup>Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;\*  
you restored your heritage when it languished;
- <sup>10</sup>**your flock found a dwelling in it;\***  
**in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**
- <sup>33</sup>O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;\*  
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
- <sup>34</sup>**Ascribe power to God,**  
**whose majesty is over Israel;**  
**and whose power is in the skies.**
- <sup>35</sup>Awesome is God in his sanctuary,\*  
the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God!

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5:6-11**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN *GTG #407 Spirit Divine Attend our Prayers***

Spirit divine, attend our prayers, and make this house your home.  
Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come.

Come as the light. To us reveal our emptiness and woe.  
And lead us in those paths of life where all the righteous go.

Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sacrificial flame.  
Let our whole soul an offering be to our Redeemer's name.

Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of peaceful love.  
And let the church on earth become blest as the church above.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers. Make a lost world your home.  
Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit. Come!

**GOSPEL: John 17: 1-11**

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he 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.

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON    The Rev. Tracey Kelly

### THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of**

sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* Brothers and sisters, grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ. The Lord has redeemed us; let us rejoice and be glad, saying, "You are our God; **and we thank you.**"

*Celebrant* Son of Righteousness, so gloriously risen, shine in our hearts as we celebrate our redemption, that we may see your way to our eternal home, where you reign, one holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

GATHERING *Halle Halle Halle*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### OFFERTORY

*Carol Nethen West*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS S 128** *Holy, holy, holy*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.



On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## FRACTION ANTHEM S-161 *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)*

## COMMUNION HYMN #516 *Come Down O Love Divine*

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

### RECESSIONAL HYMN *GTG #733 We All Are One in Mission*

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

## DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month- Outreach Committee, 1:30 pm

Men's Breakfast, 9:00 am (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of the month)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month- Women's Group, 10:00 am at the Church

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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