

He knew of His Ascension. Thursday is Ascension Day (40 days after Easter.) Jesus is (beyond talking to the Apostles,) explaining to us that He has Ascended to Heaven and His reign is as the victorious king. While we do not see Him with our eyes, we continue to see Him with our faith. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us all things and keep us in His will and purpose. Because He is God, Jesus also leaves us with the warning, and the knowledge, that tribulation and temptation will come into our lives. Our ability to turn to Jesus as God: Who came into our flesh to defeat sin for us, is a huge blessing. Jesus repaired our relationship with God, Jesus has overcome the troubles of the world. We use His name to receive what we need from God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord God, Your divine thoughts and sublime ways are as far removed from ours as the heavens from the Earth. You live to bless and to communicate life, Love, beauty and joy throughout Your universe. We depend on Your promise to receive with pardon Your penitent children. For this, we praise and glorify You for Your great goodness.

We give You our heartfelt thanks for the precious gift of Your Son Jesus, Whom You sent that we might have life and have it more abundantly. To accomplish His mission, He innocently suffered in meekness and humility the afflictions of this life. He took our sins and infirmities in His own body, and carried them to His death on the cross. For this great salvation, for overcoming the sins of the world and for granting our deliverance from the dominion of death by His Resurrection, we sing His Holy name.

Bless Your Church and let us, both here in this congregation and everywhere, be a loving union of the faithful, a Holy Communion in sacred things, a people of faith and prayer. Let the Church exercise a true religion in the performance of every merciful work. Through the Ministry of Your Church send forth Your Word into all the world, that in the power of Your truth Your Word can accomplish Your will.

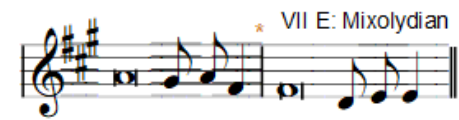
Bless all our loved ones, O Lord of health and peace. Especially we bring before You those who are sick and those who mourn. For Your people the world over, who are suffering in any manner of body or soul, we ask that You would seek them out in their distress bringing to them the confidence and the wonder of Your Love. For our nation, for our state, for our county, our city, and our homes we ask for Your special intervention on our behalf.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (Time of silent prayer.) We pray in the anticipation and expectation that we are heard as we pray us in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

© Amen.

EASTER SIX

Chant Tone



<p><b>Introit</b> Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will — sustain you; * He will never permit the righteous   to be moved. My heart is anguish — within me; * The terrors of death have fallen up — on me. But I   call to God * and the Lord will — save me. Evening and morning   and at noon * I utter my complaint and moan, and He   hears my voice.</p>	<p>He redeems my soul in safety from the battle   that I wage, * For many are arrayed — against me. Glory be to the Father and   to the Son * and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning, * is now, and will be forever. — Amen. Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will — sustain you; * He will never permit the righteous   to be moved. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 55:22; Psalm 55:4, 16-18)</i></p>
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Collect of the Day

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead \*  
[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,  
You have given Him dominion over the works | of Your hands; \*  
You have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Lord, You have done marvelous things. Through the Resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You brought victory over the grave. You revealed that victory to reliable witnesses, who were sent forth to spread the Good News. For using Your power on behalf of the human race, we give You our deepest thanks. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we may more adequately bear the fruits of Your Love. Help us show this love impartially—even to those with whom we do not agree. May we reflect Your Love in our home, church and world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**LAST WEEK WE CONSIDERED THAT WE ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND.** The only reason we see is through the work of the Holy Spirit. This week we come to understand the necessity of the name that Jesus holds, and the power in His name. Jesus gained His prominence before God through His person and work. He willingly gave us His faithfulness as our faith. We are identified by our faith in His name. We call ourselves Christians, for we are those people on whom Christ has established His name, and those people who call to God in His name. The real wonder isn't that we have escaped this world in His name, the real wonder is why anyone would reject the work and name of Jesus and opt instead to try and live without Him.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Going Yet Returning

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 55:22;) Psalm 55:4, 16-18

We are going backward, forward and staying the same. The Introit is new, the First Lesson has been moved backward from Easter 7, and again this week we are bring John 16 back to its historic use (we had changed it.) In Psalm 55, David was betrayed. At the point of death, he called to God, and was saved. "Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you."

**COLLECT**

The historic prayer asks that we would be taught to pray "rightly" (in the name of Jesus.) This new prayer asks that we are able to think the things that are right and accomplish them in the guidance of God. God does not leave us alone to our own devices, but gives us His Divine guidance.

**FIRST LESSON**—Acts 16:9-15

The Holy Spirit's direction of Paul is shown both in the negative (in being prevented from going to Asia) and in the positive (being given to preach the Gospel to "them.") Paul was accompanied by Silas and Timothy as he traveled. The change to "we" in verse 10 is an indication that Luke joined the group at that point and traveled with them to Macedonia. God has not left us without direction. The Holy Spirit working through the means of grace, continues to guide and direct the people of God. With this same Spirit's work we seek to follow God's direction. As a church we pray for direction so that we, as Paul, would be allowed to fulfill the will of God in our little corner of His kingdom.

**GRADUAL**—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

These verses are a part of the description of the new Heaven and new Earth given in Revelation 21. This description is itself part of a larger section that includes chapter 20. This is all about the victory of Christ over Satan. The holy city comes down out of Heaven from God. This indicates that it originates with God. He is the "architect and builder." (Hebrews 11:10) The ultimate theme is that our home, as Christians, is a blessed, glorious and holy place where God dwells with His people. This is a spiritual expression that involves our bodies in status and standing before God.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—John 16:23-33

Jesus was preparing the Apostles for His departure. In the case of our lesson, He was preparing them for His Crucifixion, yet, at the same time