

**A Service of Morning Prayer**  
**May 21, 2023**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**



**The Ascension by Jesus Mafa,**

a painting which is a response to the New Testament readings  
 from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa.  
 from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I will come to you. *John 14.18*

**CP 482 Come And Journey With a Saviour**

1 Come and journey with a Saviour  
 who has called us from our birth  
 who has washed us in the waters,  
 and who loved us on the earth.

***Refrain***

***Come and journey, come and journey  
 with a Saviour who has come.  
 We are all God's sons and daughters;  
 in the Spirit we are one.***

2 Come and journey, journey inward,  
 come and seek him deep within,  
 where he meets us in our living,  
 in our striving and our sin.

***Refrain...***

3 Come and journey, journey outward,  
 telling others of his name,  
 telling others of his glory,  
 of his cross and of the shame.

***Refrain...***

4 Come and journey, journey outward,  
 where that cross calls us to care,  
 where injustice and where hunger  
 and the poor call us to share.

***Refrain...***

5 Come and journey, journey upward,  
 Sing his praises, offer prayer.  
 In the storm and in the stillness  
 find his presence everywhere.

***Refrain...***

6 Come and journey, journey onward;  
 all our gifts we now shall bring  
 to the building of a city  
 that is holy, Christ its King.

***Refrain...***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 And the love of God,  
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,  
 All desires known,  
 And from you no secrets are hidden.  
 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.**

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *Refrain:* Exalt him who rides upon the heavens.

68:1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

68:3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

68:4 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.

68:5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

68:6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

68:7 O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

68:8 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.

68:9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

68:10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

68:32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, Selah

68:33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

68:34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

68:35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

### A Reading from Acts 1:6-14

1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

1:8 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."

1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

1:11 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."

1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

1:13 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.

1:14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CP 178 Restore in Us, O God

1 Restore in us, O God,  
the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.

3 Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy.

2 O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your power;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flower.

4 Three-personed God, fulfill  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends,  
may see you face to face.

### A Reading from 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

4:12 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.

4:13 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.

4:14 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.

5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

5:8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

5:9 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.

5:10 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.

5:11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CP 374 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of every nation,  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
alleluia! he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him,  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,  
thou on earth our food, our stay:  
alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day;  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest:  
thou on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of every nation,  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

## The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### John 17:1-11

17:1 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,

17:2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

17:4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

17:5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

17:6 "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.

17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;

17:8 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.

17:9 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.

17:10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

17:11 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.

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7177342 Never Walk Alone

1 Your heart is for me  
Your ear is listening  
I'm safe in Your love  
Your army of angels  
Watch over me

2 You're always present  
You're always with me  
For all of my life  
Your favour has followed  
You're my covering

**Chorus**

***(I have never walked alone)  
I've never been abandoned  
You are my inheritance  
You are my strength and shield  
And I have confidence  
You go before me  
You're my deliverer  
I know I never walk alone***

3 You're always faithful  
You're strong and able  
I'm lifting my head  
In You I find help  
You're my providence

**Bridge**

Every hour every minute  
You have always been there  
You are faithful and You always will be

In every triumph every failure  
You are loyal to me  
You are faithful and You always will be

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven.  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Lesley Lambert

Loving God, we give thanks for the opportunity to spend time with You today as we offer up the prayers of our hearts. Allow us to be still and feel Your presence, as we ask You to hear our prayers and grant our desires as is best for us and for those for whom we pray.

We pray for Your holy church throughout the world: The Church in the Province of the West Indies; Diocese of Athabasca, the Rt. Rev. David Greenwood, Bishop; St. David, Edmonton, Renee Desjardins, Rector; Kathy Bowman, Michael Sung and Dan Van Alstine, Honorary Assistants.; Buye Diocese, Kobero Parish (St. Stephen), Elie Ndacayisenga, Rector and the Metis Nation of Alberta.. During this period of transition, we thank You for St. Peter's and the presence of those clergy who have come to lead us in worship and for the online services offered by our Deacon, Alison. We are thankful to have the joy of music at both services and blessed to have Nadine as our musician. Let us pray especially today for all those friendships we have enjoyed here over many years.

We remember those whose lives have been torn apart by war, persecution and political unrest and their attendant horrors which force many to flee for their lives to find food, medical aid and safety. Let us pray today for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Pakistan and Myanmar and also for those countries which seek to assist displaced people and grant them sanctuary.

We pray today for our nation of Canada and all who live in this beautiful country. Grant us relief from the wildfires which are ravaging our province and Your protection towards all those communities affected, and Your most particular care to all those brave men and women who are fighting to extinguish the flames. Wrap them in Your arms and bring them all safely home to their families. Help us all to be vigilant in these difficult days and comfort us all by Your constant presence.

To You today we commend those who are hungry, homeless, lonely, addicted or afflicted in mind, body or spirit. Be with those whose names are known to You alone or for whom we pray in silence, and also those for whom our prayers have been requested today: Sandra, Merle, Mary, Irene, Helen, Tony and Mary Jean, Bill, Geraldine, Florence, Joan, Shirley and Cyril, Lisa, Marijke, Chrissie, Diane, Janelle, Roald, Luci, Barry W. and Sandy.

We thank You today for the beauty of this and every day. Be with us as we go about our day and as we rest at night. Let our lives and behaviours truly reflect the love You have shown us by the life and death of Your most beloved son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer all our petitions this day.

Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,  
 you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
 with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven.  
 Mercifully give us faith to know  
 that, as he promised,  
 he abides with us on earth to the end of time;  
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour 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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 451 King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You

1 King of love, O Christ, we crown you Lord of thought and Lord of will,  
 each demand of your high challenge dedicated to fulfil;  
 we with you by grace coworkers, till, where human foot has trod,  
 peoples, kings, dominions, races, own the empire of our God.

2 King of life, you have created wheat in golden harvest spread:  
 make your servants strong to serve you by the gift of daily bread.  
 Feed us with your body broken, with your blood outpoured sustain,  
 that our souls divinely strengthened may the life eternal gain.

3 King of mercy, you have saved us from the haunting sense of loss,  
 nailing in your vast compassion sin's indictment to the cross.  
 Those who love, by your sore anguish, from the past you cleanse and free,  
 breathing words of absolution throned and reigning from the tree.

4 King triumphant, King victorious, take your throne our hearts within,  
 lest the might of fierce temptation snare us into deadly sin.  
 By the Spirit's rich anointing, grant us strength life's race to run,  
 till the power of sin be vanquished, till the prize of God be won.

## The Dismissal

I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I will come to you. *John 14.18*

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**