

Welcome to Worship

May 21, 2023

Prelude

Cantabile ~ César Franck

Gathering Hymn

Rise, O Sun of Righteousness ~ ELW 657

Prayer of the Day

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35



¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

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

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

Refrain

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.
¹⁰Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

Refrain

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.
³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

Refrain

Gospel

John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

Hymn of the Day

I Come With Joy ~ ELW 482

“I come with joy” was written in 1968 by Brian Wren, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who is renowned for the expansive imagery in his hymns. In this spritely song, befitting the Easter season, we come together as one, gathered by the Spirit of the Risen Christ. The emphasis in the hymn on the oneness of the community fits well with today’s selection from John.

Musical Offering

Abbot's Leigh ~ arr. Lee J. Afdahl (Hallelujah Ringers)

Communion Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission ~ ELW 579

Sending Hymn

Go to the World ~ ACS 991

Postlude

Trio Sonata in E-flat: III. Allegro ~ J.S. Bach