

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS · MARYLAND · ESTABLISHED 1692



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 28, 2017
9:00 & 11:15 A.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

Welcome to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

If you are visiting us for the first time, let us offer you an especially warm welcome. We hope that you will enjoy worshiping with us. If at any moment in the service you are not sure what to do, ask any of your neighbors in the congregation—they will be happy to help you. We would like to continue our relationship with you, so please fill out a visitor card (found in the pew racks and on the back tables) and drop the card in the collection plate or hand it to one of the clergy or ushers following the service. Yellow "welcome" bags are available from greeters in the sanctuary narthex and lobby of the parish hall for all newcomers.

Children are loved and welcomed at St. Margaret's

While children are always welcome at all services, **professional nursery care** for ages 0-4 is lovingly provided from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Nursery (downstairs in the Annex building connected to the church). Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the Nursery. We provide **Sunday School** and formation for both adults and children for ages 3 and up on Sunday mornings from 10:20-11 a.m. from Sept. through the weekend before Memorial Day.

Communion

All are welcome to receive bread and wine during communion, including children. To receive bread, place your hands palms-up at the communion rail. To receive wine, assist the Eucharistic Minister in guiding the chalice to your lips or you may intinct by dipping the bread in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine, place your arms across your chest and you will receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Indicate your wish for a gluten-free wafer by first extending your hands palms down when at the communion rail. The square wafers are kept in a separate holder and you are invited to take one from this holder.

Welcome Statement

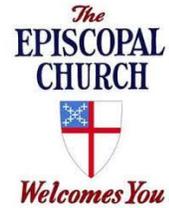
The St. Margaret's community consists of many fibers knitted together over three centuries. Our table has seated meager farmers, plantation owners, reluctant rebels, agents of the Crown, enslaved persons and slave holders. Our leadership includes partnered, married, single, widowed and divorced Christians. We welcome in love persons of every race, gender, culture, sexual orientation and gender identification. All people have a sacred worth and the fabric of St. Margaret's grows stronger with each new thread. It wraps in comfort the shoulders of the defeated and the hurt and has been raised as a banner to celebrate God's transforming wholeness in our midst. We welcome you to be part of our fabric which will grow for centuries to come.

Adopted by St. Margaret's Vestry, November 17, 2016 -- Amended by St. Margaret's Vestry, January 17, 2017

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THE REV. JANE MILLIKEN HAGUE, ASSOCIATE RECTOR
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THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 28, 2017
9:00 & 11:15 A.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE TWO



PRELUDE

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

In Babilone



1 See the Con - queror mounts in tri - umph; see the King in
 2 He who on the cross did suf - fer, he who from the
 3 Thou hast raised our hu - man na - ture on the clouds to



roy - al state, rid - ing on the clouds, his
 grave a - rose, he has van - quished sin and
 God's right hand: there we sit in heaven - ly



char - iot, to his heaven - ly pal - ace gate!
 Sa - tan; he by death has spoiled his foes.
 plac - es, there with thee in glo - ry stand.



Hark! the choirs of an - gel voic - es joy - ful
 While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, he is
 Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels; Man with



al - le - lu - ias sing, and the por - tals
 part - ed from his friends; while their ea - ger
 God is on the throne; might - y Lord, in



high are lift - ed to re - ceive their heaven - ly King.
 eyes be - hold him, he up - on the clouds a - scends.
 thine as - cen - sion, we by faith be - hold our own.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant
People

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
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.

GLORIA

Mathias

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.

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.**

The people are seated.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the book of Acts.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "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 *(said responsively by half verse)*

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
**his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.**
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!**

SECOND LESSON

I 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.**

The people stand as able.

Children's Chapel begins here at the 9 a.m. service for children from ages three to second grade. Children leave the nave during this sequence hymn following behind the cross which will come down the aisle and then go into the downstairs annex classroom with the children rejoining their parents at The Peace.

As the Gospel moment approaches, and the book is processed and the music plays, everyone turns and reorients themselves to face where the Gospel is, for the teachings of Jesus reorient our lives towards Him, and at this moment, we become the Jesus Movement. –Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

SEQUENCE HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Hyfrydol

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
 *2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the
 *5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
 4 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of
 5 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how; though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day; In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne; thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his love.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his love.

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

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

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

Jesus 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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people may be seated.

SERMON

9:00 a.m. –The Rev. Peter W. Mayer
11:15 a.m. - The Rev Jane Milliken Hague

A moment of silence is observed after the sermon.

The people stand as able.

NICENE CREED

Celebrant and People

**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.**

Leader:

In peace, we pray to your, Lord God.

Almighty God, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy.

For those who have given so much, even everything, so that we might enjoy our freedom today.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Eugene and Chilton our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life...

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially...that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to use the peace and unity of that heavenly City where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

It is customary to omit the Confession of Sin during the season of Easter.

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with the Peace and are seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

The people remain seated while offertory music is played, and bread and wine are brought to the altar. An offering of gifts is collected, and along with the bread and wine, they are presented to God as thanksgiving for the blessings poured out onto us. Our gifts: bread, wine, music and money, become sacramental in God's economy.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

(You may use this QR code to connect to our online giving site with your cell phone.)



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people stand as able.

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.

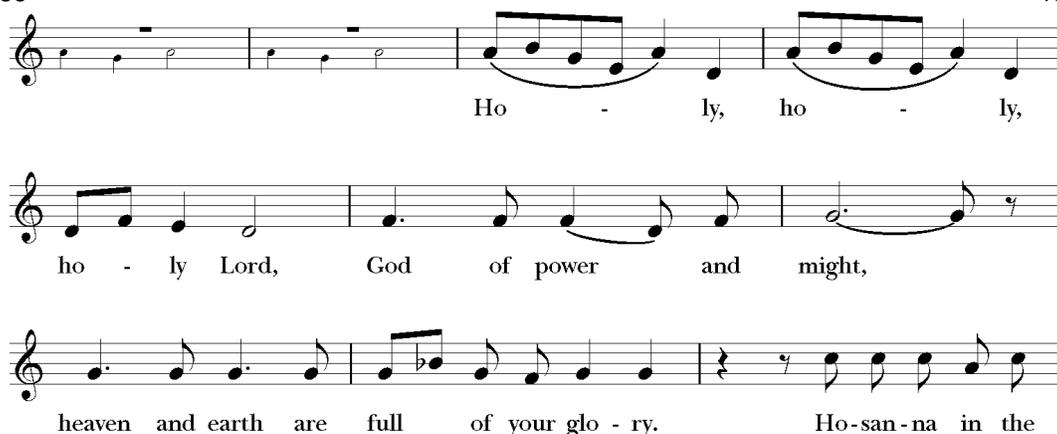
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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

Matthias



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

LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray,

People and Celebrant

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Pascha Nostrum

Near

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The people are seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive bread and wine during communion, including children. To receive bread, place your hands palms-up at the communion rail. To receive wine, assist the Eucharistic Minister in guiding the chalice to your lips, or you may intinct by dipping the bread in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine, place your arms across your chest and you will receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Indicate your wish for a gluten-free wafer by first extending your hands palms down when at the communion rail. The square wafers are kept in a separate holder and you are invited to take one from this holder.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let us break bread together

Break Bread

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees).
 2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). 1. me). 2.

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

COMMUNION HYMN

When Christ was lifted from the earth

St. Botolph

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
 2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
 3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
 4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
 al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
 I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
 as his friends and loves us as we are.
 but a face, a per - son, and a name.
 cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

The people stand as able after all are served.

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

On most Sundays, we send out Eucharistic visitors to deliver the sacrament to those who cannot be with us. This is the prayer we use to send them on their way.

Celebrant

In the name of this congregation I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, to (N.) that they may share with us in the sacrament of our Savior Jesus Christ.

People

We who are many are One Body, because we all share one Bread, and one Cup.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Celebrant

May God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

All hail the power of Jesus' Name

Coronation

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate
2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did
* 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
* 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
 2 call: praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and
 3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and
 4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and
 5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al
 2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of
 3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,
 4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you
 5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
 3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
 4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

6 Let every kindred, every tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown him Lord of all!

DISMISSAL

Priest Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Eucharistic Ministers:	9:00 A.M.	Janet Allen, David Allen
Lectors:	9:00 A.M.	Karyn Sproles, Barbara Marder
Acolytes:	9:00 A.M.	Nellie Bowers, Kamden & Maile Peacock, Mollie Rose Svendsen

Children's Chapel Leaders: Myrna Bein, Sarah Balcom, Sydney Davis

Eucharistic Ministers:	11:15 A.M.	Janis Brewer, Jim Weekley
Lectors:	11:15 A.M.	Edith Edson, Valery Weekley
Acolytes:	11:15 A.M.	Lucas & Benjamin Tolley

Coffeehour Hosts: Web Chamberlin, Barb Lundien, Jeanne Nardi, Sarah Luisi, Danielle Rubino

Altar Guild: Kirsten Tolley, Sandra Goldthwait, Alice Gillis, Mary Lester

Flower Guild: Mary Kirkeby

Organist: Hope Stinson



St. Margaret's Annual
Outdoor Bluegrass Mass
featuring the Third Sunday Band
Sunday, June 4
11:15 a.m.
Bring lawn chairs or a blanket for seating

followed by a parish picnic with
hot dogs & hamburgers provided

Last Names A-L - Bring a dessert
Last Names M-Z - Bring a side dish

Ascension Day



The Ascension. Hans Süss von Kulmbach, 1513. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N.Y.

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated 40 days after Easter Day, marking the conclusion of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and his ascension into heaven. Although Ascension Day occurred on May 25 on this year's liturgical calendar, many parishes will observe it today.

Celebration of this holy day dates back at least to the late fourth century, and scriptural references to Jesus' ascension occur in both The Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Mark: "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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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'" (Acts 1: 6-11, NRSV).

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19, NRSV).

The Ascension of Jesus is also professed in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father" (Book of Common Prayer, pp.120, 358).

Memorial Day 2017

Of all the civic holidays on our U.S. calendar, Memorial Day may come closest to a deep embrace of spiritual values. Originally called "Decoration Day," this remembrance began following one of the most poignant eras in our country's history. Between 1864 and 1866, just after the end of the American Civil War, community leaders established a date upon which we could honor both Union and Confederate war dead.



To remember those who had died in the service of their country, these leaders established observances that enabled Americans to engage in activities of unity and spiritual healing.

Memorial Day is a sacred commemoration. The persons we honor on this day are a silent witness to a virtuous honor that is particularly dear to people of spiritual values. This is the time each year when we remember men and women who have been, as is written about a leader of Roman soldiers in the New Testament, "...set under authority (Luke 7:8) ..." On this day we remember that some of those under authority have, as a consequence of their service, sacrificed their lives.

Is there a cause for which dying is honorable? Laudable? Since the beginning of my military service 50 years ago, I have been trying to answer that question. For those who embrace Godly values, the question about dying in the service of your country has some important implications. Military training almost always contains the underlying lesson that being involved in the fulfillment of a mission could end up in death. Obviously, military service is not a commitment to be considered lightly by those who take the oath of office to "...support and defend the Constitution of the United States..." (10 U.S. Code, Section 502). At the same time, few of us ever thought they would die during a military mission. Unfortunately, some have died.

I believe that people of faith can find spiritual values from the stories of men and women who have made the "ultimate sacrifice" of their lives. A few years ago I had the honor to conduct the Arlington National Cemetery burial service for Medal of Honor awardee Lieutenant Colonel Don C. Faith. Faith, who had been killed during the Korean War, had the reputation of being a "Soldier's Soldier," who gave his life doing everything he could to simultaneously keep his soldiers alive and achieve the mission. His dedication to his men and to his mission has become a timeless inspiration to service members and citizens alike.

Though personally we cannot thank service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, surely we can honor them. We can pray that the memory of their sacrificial service will endure. We will remember them.

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