

The Festival of the Ascension of our Lord  
St. Mark 16:14-20  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## Go Ye into All the World

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Sermon Text:**

“And He said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.’”

### **Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Most High, Who no longer dwellest on Earth in lowliness and poverty, but art seated at the right hand of the Father, a mighty Lord over all things in Heaven and on Earth, filling and ruling all: we beseech Thee, send us Thy Holy Spirit, give us faithful ministers, endow them with Thy gifts and keep them in Thy Word, hinder Satan and all tyrants, and mightily protect Thy Kingdom on Earth, until all enemies are laid at Thy feet, and we overcome sin, death, and all things by Thee, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! The Christ indeed is risen from the dead in our flesh. This is why our Lord + Jesus came down from Heaven to do. He came down from Heaven to take upon Himself our flesh. He came to be one of us. He came to bear our flesh, but without sin. So that He could perfectly fulfill the Law of God; the Law which we are unable to keep perfectly. He fulfilled the Law perfectly as one of us; bearing our flesh in this world. He then offered up that innocent, blameless, sinless flesh our ours that He bore as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world upon the tree of the holy cross. He came down from Heaven to bear our flesh, fulfill the Law perfectly in our flesh, and to suffer and die as one of us in our flesh to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

And then on the third day He rose again from the dead bearing our flesh. Now all those who cling to Him in faith; who cling to these works of the Christ even though their bodies die, they will be raised again on the Last Day and receive new and glorious bodies. They who cling to the works of the Lord + Jesus in faith will live with Him for all eternity, and with all the other saints who have gone before, and with all the host of the angelic heavenly choir. We will live with Him forever and ever in Heaven because He has come down from Heaven to take upon Himself our flesh, and work the works that made for our redemption and salvation.

Now today on this fortieth day after the resurrection of our Lord + Jesus, which showed us a picture of our own resurrection, our Lord takes our flesh that He bore in this world to His eternal home in Heaven. He takes our flesh that He bore—the sinless flesh that He bore—to sit on the right hand of the heavenly Father. Through Him—through the flesh of ours that He bears—we now have access to the heavenly Father. As the Psalmist declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool.’” He sits on the right hand of the heavenly Father interceding for us

poor sinners, until He shall come again on the Last Day to judge both the quick and the dead. On that day He will make His foes His footstool. He will place all the enemies of the Word of God and all the unbelievers into the place where the Lord God's presence does not exist; they will be placed in Hell.

In order that mankind may not end up with this horrible fate, the Lord + Jesus today sends out the eleven Apostles to go into all the world with the preaching of the Gospel. They were to go into all the world with the gift of Holy Baptism, teaching all men that the Lord + Jesus has come down from Heaven to take upon Himself our flesh, so that He might redeem us. All those who believeth and are baptized shall be saved. All those who disbelieveth shall be condemned. Therefore, the Apostles are told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel and baptize. Through these means, the Holy Ghost works to draw all men who do not resist Him to faith in the Christ.

It is in these means that the Christ remains with us. We no longer see Him in His visible presence. He has ascended to sit on the right hand of the heavenly Father. He has taken our flesh that He bears to sit on the right hand of the Father, but He does not leave us alone. He does not forsake us. The heavenly Father and the Son have sent to us the Holy Ghost. The Son of God—our Lord + Jesus, the Christ—is with us now in the Sacraments. His visible presence has passed into the Sacraments, so that if we wish to see the Lord + Jesus; if we wish to be with the Lord + Jesus, we may find Him in the blessed means of grace.

He is present with us until He calls us from this vale of tears to our eternal home in Heaven—the eternal mansions that He is preparing for us—wherever two or three are gathered in His Name around the Word and Sacraments. Wherever the Gospel is being preached; wherever the wonderful saving works that the Lord + Jesus has done are being preached into man's ears, there the Lord + Jesus is among us. For His works of redemption fill our ears, and we rejoice that He has come down from Heaven to be with us; to take upon Himself our flesh, all so that He could fulfill the Law in our flesh, and pay the penalty of our sins in our flesh, and rise again from the dead in our flesh, and take our flesh with Him into Heaven to sit on the right hand of the heavenly Father until He calls us to be with Him and gives us all new glorious flesh.

He is also with us whenever a person receives the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Ghost; whenever a person is baptized. For in Holy Baptism, we are buried with Him in His death, and raised again with Him in His resurrection, and we are clothed with His righteousness. We are washed free from sins by the blood of the Lamb which is poured upon us in Holy Baptism; the blood which He poured out for us upon the tree of the holy cross. Whenever we remember our Holy Baptism; whenever we humbly confess our sins, and amend our sinful ways, and cling to His works and merits, He is with us. He is there with us interceding for our sins on our behalf to the heavenly Father.

He is especially with us in this sacrament that we share with one another at this holy altar. He is with us in His Body and Blood given in bread and wine. We remember and proclaim His death and resurrection, and we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. He unites us to Himself in this blessed meal, and He unites us together in one Body and in one Faith. All those who believe and are baptized are joined together into one, holy, Christian and Apostolic Church, so that all those who are with us today are united together with the Christ, and we are united together with all those saints who have received the crown of eternal life.

This is why our Lord + Jesus on the fortieth day after His resurrection from the dead, sends out His Apostles, the eleven who witnessed His resurrection and believed on Him. They would be sent to those who have not seen, and yet have still believed. They have been sent into all the world, so that all mankind may hear the preaching of the Gospel, receive Holy Baptism, have the sins forgiven, and be united into the holy Christian and Apostolic Church. So that all those who believe may be united together in to one family, and that they may be rescued from the horrible fate of those who refuse to

believe; of those who are disbelieving, and who reject the truth of what our Lord + Jesus, the Christ has done.

We as part of the Christian Church on Earth, have also been given the command by our Lord + Jesus to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.” For, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and He that disbelieveth shall be condemned.” We have been sent to this place and this time to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments in this place, so that the Holy Ghost may draw all those who hear to be united to the One Who took upon Himself our flesh, and redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Let us therefore, my dear friends, faithfully carry out this charge of our Lord + Jesus, for just as we have received salvation through faith in Him, all those who hear the Gospel preached in this place will also be led by the Holy Ghost to hear the truth about the Lord + Jesus, and believe that He has suffered and died for them, so that He might unite them to us in peace and harmony. We do this by remaining faithful to truth of what our Lord + Jesus has done, and by continuing to administer the Sacraments according to the way that He instituted them.

For He desires that all men be saved. He will draw all men to Himself through the work of the Apostles, the work of the Church, and the work of this parish. He has indeed come down from Heaven and taken upon Himself our flesh, and He has suffered and died in our flesh, and He has risen and ascended in our flesh, all so that we might be saved by Him and live with Him for all eternity in Heaven. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*