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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
April 27, 2025**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of grace,  
you have freed us from our sins  
and made us a kingdom in your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Accept all we offer you this day,  
and strengthen us in the new life you have given us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Father,  
we have seen with our eyes  
and touched with our hands  
the bread of life.  
Strengthen our faith  
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. AMEN

**COLLECT**

Almighty and eternal God,  
the strength of those who believe  
and the hope of those who doubt,  
may we, who have not seen, have faith  
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. AMEN

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**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS**

When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." **ACTS 5:27-32**

Reader:       The Word of the Lord  
People:       **Thanks be to God**

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## PSALM

**Refrain:** *Hallelujah! Praise god in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.*

Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness. Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; praise him with lyre and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe. Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud-clanging cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the lord. Hallelujah! **Psalm 150**

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## A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. **REVELATION 1:4-8**

Reader: The Word of the Lord  
People: **Thanks be to God**

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Reader: The Lord be with you  
People: **And also with you**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: **Glory to, you Lord Jesus Christ**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. **JOHN 20:19-31**

Reader: The Gospel of Christ  
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**