

Our mission is to learn the way of Jesus together as we invite others to join us at His Table.

Our Common Practices

We Gather

We gather for worship more often than not.
We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.

We create hospitable space for one another.

We Grow

We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation, prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer, spiritual reading and study...).

We nurture our faith.

We attend to relationships that promote growth.
We develop and learn as human beings made in the image of God.

We Give

We are a generous people who give our time and resources to the mission of God and the world.

We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys fiscal health so as to minister generously.

We Go

We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.

We help the vulnerable among us.

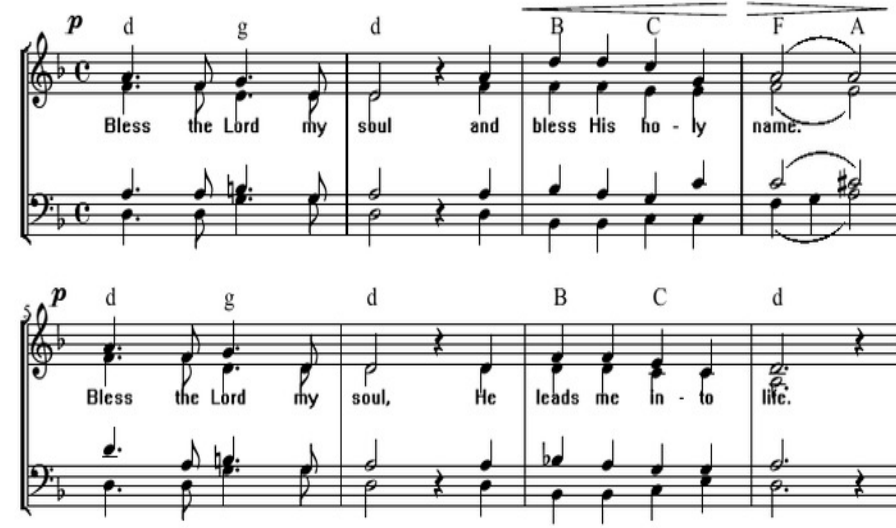
We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

A Breath Prayer for the Easter Season:

"I put my trust in Your unfailing love."

Bless the Lord my soul

m.: J. Berthier, Taizé



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CHURCH OF
 THE NAZARENE

TABLELIFE
CHURCH



Order of Worship
24 May 2020
Ascension Sunday

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music
Welcome
Call to Worship
Worship Reading from Psalm 47

We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer
Sermon Series: The Spirit of Easter
Sermon: "Easter Witness"
Scripture Reading: Acts 1.1-11

We Come to the Table

Prayers of the People
Song of Preparation
Passing the Peace of Christ
Prayer of Confession and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

Sermon Reflection Guide

Acts 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 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 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."

Question for Everyone:

(1) I share my faith in Christ with people of no faith all time. (10) I never talk about my faith with others as I don't want to appear to be a crazy person. Where are you on this range?

The Spirit of Easter

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood to be this rogue agent of the Most High God wandering the earth inspiring people to do strange things like speak in heavenly languages, roar in the spirit, or laugh uncontrollably. Simply stated, the Spirit of Christ

empowers the people of Christ to live under the authority of Christ the King. Response?

Enthronement

Ascension is the transition from Easter to Pentecost, but it is more than that. Ascension is a royal enthronement. Notice that Christ is taken up but not taken away. Christ is lifted up, but not lifted out. Heaven and earth are converging all the time. And one day, the convergence will become seamless. Talk about the ways you have witnessed the convergence of heaven and earth.

Sharing a Meal, Talking About God's Dream

In that mysterious, liminal space between Easter and Pentecost, the disciples and Jesus shared meals together and discussed the Kingdom of God. They shared forty days of table fellowship as they dreamed about what the world will be like when heaven and earth finally merge. Living in the realm of Jesus now is about feasting together at a common table with our Lord and dreaming about what it will be like when heaven finally comes down to earth fully. What will it be like when heaven and earth merge? What are you looking forward to the most when this happens?

When Will This Happen?

Here's Jesus' replies to the Disciples' question: The culmination of God's plan, the fullness of my governance over heaven and earth, the timing of these matters aren't for you to fret about. Here's what you need to focus on: granting the Holy Spirit access to your life so as to be my witnesses. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to empower your witness lately?

Witnesses

Luke tells us that if we want to be a witness for Jesus, we will need the Spirit to do that. "The church routinely neglects teaching believers that they live in the realm and under the influence of a very mission-minded Spirit whose presence empowers an effective, responsible witness for Jesus in the world" (Robert Wall). Let us bear witness to one another about our experience of Jesus and his Kingdom. What might it mean to be a "responsible witness?"