

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED)

May 24th, 2020 – 10 am

AS WE GATHER

In Jesus' final appearance to the eleven disciples, He tells them that they will be His witnesses, witnesses of His resurrection. Not only will they be witnesses in familiar places such as Jerusalem and Judea, but they will also be witnesses in Samaria, a foreign land where these Jewish disciples did not care to travel. And finally, the disciples will be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection to the ends of the earth. As we remember Jesus' ascension, we also remember the faithfulness of His disciples to be His witnesses and to go where they were sent, so that we could know the power of Jesus and His resurrection even though we are thousands of miles from Jerusalem.



✂ PREPARATION ✂

HYMN “Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious” #495

- 1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious;
 See the Man of Sorrows now!
 From the fight returned victorious,
 Ev’ry knee to Him shall bow.
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 Crowns become the victor’s brow. (2X)
- 2 Crown the Savior! Angels, crown Him!
 Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
 On the seat of pow’r enthrone Him
 While the vault of heaven rings.
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 Crown the Savior King of kings. (2X)
- 3 Sinners in derision crowned Him,
 Mocking thus the Savior’s claim;
 Saints and angels crowd around Him,
 Own His title, praise His name.
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 Spread abroad the victor’s fame. (2X)
- 4 Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
 Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
 Jesus takes the highest station;
 Oh, what joy the sight affords!
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 King of kings and Lord of lords! (2X)

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!
People: **Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Today is a day of celebration, grief, and anticipation.
People: **We celebrate our Lord's triumph and reign.**

Pastor: We grieve that He is not physically present with us.
People: **We anticipate the coming of the promised Holy on Pentecost.**

Pastor: And we celebrate that His promise to always be with us remains and will never fade away.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.

Silence for meditation.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ's saving work and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven and restored.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!
People: **Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5*
God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."
The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

KYRIE **Lord have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 1:1–11* (Jesus ascends into heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you 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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Christ has risen from the dead.[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor, He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

HYMN “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” #493 v. 1-4

1. A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. The holy apostoloic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful fol-l’wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. To them the shining angels cry,
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia, alleluia!
“This is the Saviour,” thus they say;
“This is His glorious triumph day!”
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. “You see Him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia, alleluia!
“Here after Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:15–23* (Christ is risen and ascended. All things are under His feet.)

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" #493 v. 5, 6

5. Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:44–53* (Jesus is carried up into the heavens.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty- fourth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ the Eternal Lord" #829

1. Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;

With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.

2. Christ the unchanging Word
To every passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scriptures page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.
3. Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For every child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honour Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.
4. Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.
5. Christ, the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
To know as we are known.

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SERMON *“What Does the Ascension Mean?” (Acts 1:1-11)*

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

People: **And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Ascended Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant our supplication.

Brief silence

Pastor: That the Lord may grant us all things in Christ so we may be sustained in trial, strengthened in weakness and delivered from trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Church of Christ may flourish in spite of the pandemic and all other obstacles and the good news of Christ crucified, risen and ascended would be proclaimed to all the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may richly supply us with faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out; and that we may hear, believe and live out this Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the nations of the earth may seek peace; and that the leaders of our country may pursue justice, righteousness and peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the pandemic may come to an end, and that livelihood and common life may resume, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all those celebrating special events in their lives, including birthdays for Jacob, Erika, Marta, Nyamut, Sandy, Kaleb, Connie, and Amanda would return thanks to the Lord of Life for another year of blessings and for those celebrating wedding anniversaries, including Harry and Sylvia, David and Erika, and Ben and Sandra Stewart, that their joy and love would overflow as they praise You for Your steadfast goodness in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all who are afflicted may be strengthened in illness and comforted in adversity, especially Doug and his family and our church family as we continue to mourn the death of Betty, that the promise of the resurrection would bring us the comfort and hope we need; as well we remember Anne and Mike as they seek the Lord's help and encouragement during these days ; for Rob and

his family as they mourn the death of his cousin, Dorothea, that the Good Shepherd would bring them comfort in the midst of sorrow; for Erin and her continuing recovery; for Allison and her family; for Doreen; Anna; Albert and Anne; Shirley; Matthew and Marissa; Peter; Shirley and Keith; Betty, Bill and Sandy; Harry; Stacy and her family, Imogen and family; Llyod and Elsie, Walter and Donna, Christina, Matthew, Bill and Vicky; Maria, Dennis and Sara, Nancy; Patricia, Sandra, Sarah, Grace; Anne and Mike; Reiner and Marianne; Gene and Anna; Ritva as she recovers from surgery; Melissa, Marsha, Becky, Anna, Delbert, and all those whom we name in our hearts . . . let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the faithful may not fret what we do not know but rejoice in Christ, our Savior, and live in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord may grant us joyful hearts and peace at the last, knowing that neither death nor life, nor any powers, can separate us from the love of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That we may be as generous in our tithes and offerings as the Lord is in giving us His gifts, and that we may support the poor and those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That we may know the Lord's presence in the means of His grace, hearing His Word, receiving His absolution and looking forward to that day when we are able to feast at His table together with faith and joy in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That we may remember the saints of old, who contended for the Lord in their own day; and that we may join them at last in the marriage feast of the Lamb without end, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else we need, we ask You to grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "At the Name of Jesus" #512

- 1 At the name of Jesus
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess Him
King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.
- 2 At His voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and bright dominions,
Stars upon their way,
All the heav'nly orders
In their great array.
- 3 Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed;
- 4 Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast,
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.
- 5 In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour;

Let His will enfold you
In its light and pow'r.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
In His Father's glory,
With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.

7 Glory then to Jesus,
Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness
Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father;
In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together
Him who reigns above.

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