

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

CELEBRATION ON MAY 24, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Ascension shouldn't be overlooked. Ascension is a time of happy endings as Jesus concludes His earthly ministry and promises the Holy Spirit's imminent arrival. Jesus sends His disciples to the ends of the earth as witnesses of His resurrection. He promises that He will always be with us even to the end of the age. We remember today Jesus' earthly ministry and His mission for us, and we bask in the promise of His presence.



✖ PREPARATION ✖

HYMN

"A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING"

[LSB 493]

The musical notation consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a G clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics for the first stanza are: "1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un - to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" The second stanza begins with a repeat sign and continues with: "2. The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia! And with His faithful foll'wers see Their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!" The third stanza begins with a repeat sign and continues with: "3. To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia, alleluia! "This is the Savior," thus they say; "This is His glorious triumph day!" Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!" The music concludes with a final repeat sign and a double bar line.

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 Spirit on Pentecost.

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

CONFSSION 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 ✎

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your Son sent us to the ends of the earth with the Gospel and promised always to be with us. Embolden us to spread the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and return; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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,² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying^[a] 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;⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ 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."

Lector: 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.

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^[a] toward all the saints,¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,¹⁸ 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,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ 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.²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,²³ 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.**

ALLELUIA VERSE:

ALL: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.

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.**

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.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for^[a] the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ 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 "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" [LSB 491]



1. Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
2. Death - de - story - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
3. To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spi - rit
4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the
Δ 5. Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spi - rit's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
and the Son, To th' - et - er - nal Spi - rit hon - or



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia
Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!
in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth

and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✕ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into our world with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for His life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection. Most especially today we thank You for seating Him at Your right hand in His ascension. We thank You for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: **He rules and reigns in glory.**

Pastor: Lord, at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples out to the ends of the earth with a mission to be witnesses of His resurrection. Strengthen us as we continue their faithful witness. Embolden all missionaries and evangelists by constantly opening a door for Your Word to be spoken. We ask this in faith for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: **He rules and reigns in glory.**

Pastor: Lord, thank You for sending the promised Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our ways. Conform our lives to the Word of God and transform us by the renewing of our minds. We ask this with boldness for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: **He rules and reigns in glory.**

Pastor: Lord, we live in a world with imperfect leaders, imperfect laws, and imperfect communities, but we know that all things are under Christ's feet, and He has all power and authority. So we ask for You to send Your perfect wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, instill Your perfect justice in our lawyers and judges, and bring Your perfect hope to our communities. We ask this in hope for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: **He rules and reigns in glory.**

Pastor: Lord, we pray for those who are sick and recovering, those who are hospitalized and homebound. Strengthen them, and give them patience in their afflictions. We ask this in love for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: **He rules and reigns in glory.**

Pastor: Finally, Lord, we ask for Your comfort for all those who grieve the death of loved ones, [especially . . .]. Grant them peace as they hope in the resurrection to eternal life. We ask this knowing that Christ is ascended.

People: **He is returning soon. Amen.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR LOCAL NEEDS:

For those who are ill or with health issues: Pastor Harold Baldwin, Adella Schmidt, Alice Baldwin, Norma Pierson, Gerry Brooks (Ruth's husband), Larry Bennett (Earl Trantham's friend), Doug Glenn (Joyce Avery's son), Alan Reiman (Helen Hegland's son), Russell Avery.

For those recuperating: Earl Trantham, Janet Normandin (Sandi York's daughter) & Elpidia (Elisa's cousin).

For those with cancer: Bill York (Sandi York's husband), Nancy Aguilar, Lindsey Duncan (Susan Muldoon's friend).

For Our Shut-ins: Ida Parker, Charlie Bickel, and Helen Hegland

For our active military and reservist military: Arthur Bartlett, Mitchell Ogburn, Carrie Bravard, Kaylin Nance, Brandon Austin (Grandson of Carl and Sara Austin), Jake Willis (Carol Bravard's grandson), Jonathan Fjare (Betty Lenz's grandson), Michael Sommers (nephew of Ruth Brooks), Hunter Dick (John Holeton's friend), Austin Allen (friend of Ogburn family), Justin Akin (Dawn Akin's son), Zachary Bender (Darby Baldwin's nephew).

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

“CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS” [LSB 525]

1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave

Hark how the heav'nly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
 Whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won Which now His brow a - don;
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied,
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who

hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty,
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem,
 down - ward bend their won-dring eyes At mys-ter-ies so bright,
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, st. 1-3, 5, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4
 Time: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

DIADEMATA
S.M.D.

Text and music: Public domain

Rev. 19:13, 16; Heb. 2:9; Rev. 3:11, 14; Phil. 2:9-11

The **Bulletin Board**



Alter flower were donated this week by:

Kim Chu

For Her Birthday!