

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Happy Endings

Thursday, May 21, 2020

A service of

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Buchanan;

Trinity Lutheran Church, Glendora &

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sawyer



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.

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. Luke 24:50–51

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Hail Thee, Festival Day”

LSB 489 [LW 148]

ref-a Hail thee, festival day!

Blest day to be hallowed forever;

Day when our risen Lord

Rose in the heavens to reign.

1a He who was nailed to the cross
Is ruler and Lord of all people.
All things created on earth
Sing to the glory of God: Refrain

2a Daily the loveliness grows,
Adorned with the glory of blossom;
Heaven her gateway unbars,
Flinging her increase of light: Refrain

3 God the Almighty, the Lord,
The ruler of earth and the heavens,
Guard us from harm without;
Cleanse us from evil within: Refrain

4 Jesus, the health of the world,
Creator of all and redeemer,
Son of the Father supreme,
Only-begotten of God: Refrain

5 Spirit of life and of pow'r,
Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all,
Life that in all may abide: Refrain

6 Praise to the giver of good!
O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days;
Order our ways in Your peace:
Refrain

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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 Spirit 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 ✠

HYMN "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" [Sts. 1–2: LSB 564]

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Christ sits at God's right hand,
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev'ry foe will lie
Beneath His feet—
All that the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill,
When first He said, "Lord, here am I
To do Your will." | 2 Christ was that priest God swore,
Uniquely First and Last,
Who would in righteousness and love
Be unsurpassed:
"A priest forevermore,"
An oath God would not break,
"A priest within the order of
Melchizedek." |
|---|--|

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Kyrie

LSB 204

- ☐ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

- ☐ 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

- 2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
“Amen!” our glad reply.

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.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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 adapt. from *Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

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.)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which 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.**

VERSE *Romans 6:9, Matthew 28:20b*

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.**

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and 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 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” LSB 492

- 1 On Christ’s ascension I now build
 The hope of my ascension;
 This hope alone has always stilled
 All doubt and apprehension;
 For where the Head is, there as well
 I know His members are to dwell
 When Christ will come and call them.
- 2 Since Christ returned to claim His throne,
 Great gifts for me obtaining,
 My heart will rest in Him alone,
 No other rest remaining;
 For where my treasure went before,
 There all my thoughts will ever soar
 To still their deepest yearning.

- 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully
In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

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SERMON "The Ascension Connection" - Luke 24:50-53 – Pastor Randy Lett, Trinity, Sawyer

CREED - 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: 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, [especially . . .]. 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.

So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" *LSB 493*

- 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 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!
- 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!

- 4 "You see Him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia, alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty."
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 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, 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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