

# Ascension Day

## Thursday, May 21, 2020

*Order of Service, Vespers (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, p. 120)*

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### ~Prelude

### ~Hymn 389 vv. 1-4, 7 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

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| <i>1. A hymn of glory let us sing!<br/>New songs throughout the world shall ring:<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Christ, by a road before untrod.<br/>Ascendeth to the throne of God.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i> | <i>3. To whom the angels, drawing nigh,<br/>"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>"This is the Savior!" thus they say,<br/>"This is His noble triumph-day."<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i> |
| <i>2. The holy apostolic band<br/>Upon the Mount of Olives stand.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>And with His followers they see<br/>Jesus' resplendent majesty.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>                      | <i>4. "Again shall ye behold Him so<br/>As ye today have seen Him go."<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>"In glorious pomp ascending high<br/>Up to the portals of the sky."<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>               |
| <i>7. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,<br/>All praise to Thee let earth accord,<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Who art, while endless ages run,<br/>With Father and with Spirit One.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia</i>     |  |

### ~Confession of Sin

*(ELH p. 120)*

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

**C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**~Versicles**

(ELH p. 120-121)

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore. Amen. Alleluia**

**~Men's Choir "Psalm 47"**

(CW p. 85)

*Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.*

*Clap your hands, all you nations;  
Shout to God with cries of joy.*

*How awesome is the Lord Most High,  
The great King over all the earth!*

*God reigns over the nations;  
God is seated on his holy throne.*

*Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.*

*God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
The Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.*

*Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

*For God is the King of all the earth;  
Sing to him a psalm of praise.*

***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.***

*Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.*

**~Old Testament Lesson**

**Isaiah 57:15** Certainly this is what the High and Lofty One says,  
the one who dwells with his people forever,  
and whose name is holy:

I dwell in a high and holy place,  
yet also with the one who is crushed and lowly in spirit,  
in order to revive the spirit of those who have been pushed down,  
and to revive the hearts of those who have been crushed.

### ~Gospel Lesson

**Mark 16:14-20** Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

### ~Hymn 392 *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

*1. On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of mine ascension;  
This hope alone has ever stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there full well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.*

*2. Since He returned to claim His throne,  
Great gifts for men obtaining,  
My heart shall rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my Treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts shall ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.*

*3. O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Thine ascension,  
That I may ever walk with Thee,  
Adorning Thy redemption;  
And then, when all my days shall cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.*

### ~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

**Acts 1:1-11** The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus,

who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

**~Sermon Theme**

***"The Ascension: Christ's Solution to the World's Greatest Problem"***

**~Men's Choir *We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend***

*(ELH Hymn 394, vv. 1, 2, 4)*

*1. We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend,  
That Thou didst into heav'n ascend.  
O blessed Savior, bid us live  
And strength to soul and body give.  
Alleluia.*

*2. Ascended to His throne on high,  
Hid from our sight, yet always nigh,  
He rules and reigns at God's right hand  
And has all pow'r at His command.  
Alleluia.*

*4. We therefore heartily rejoice  
And sing His praise with cheerful voice;  
He captive led captivity,  
From bitter death He set us free.  
Alleluia.*

**~Kyrie**

*(ELH p. 124)*

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**~Lord's Prayer**

*(ELH p. 125)*

**C: ♪ 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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**~Collect for Ascension**

P: O Jesus Christ, almighty Son of God, You are no longer in humiliation here on earth, but are seated at the right hand of Your Father, Lord over all things: We beseech You, send us Your Holy Spirit; give Your Church pious pastors, preserve Your Word, control and restrain the devil and all who would oppress us; mightily uphold Your kingdom, until all Your enemies have been put under Your feet, that we may hold the victory over sin, death, and the devil; through You, who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

**~Benedicamus and Benediction**

*(ELH p. 127)*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Closing Hymn 55 *Crown Him with Many Crowns***

1. *Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.*

2. *Crown Him the Virgin's Son,  
The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won  
Which now His brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose,  
As of that rose the stem;  
The root whence mercy ever flows,  
The Babe of Bethlehem.*

3. *Crown Him the Lord of Love.  
Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his wond'ring eye  
At mysteries so bright.*

4. *Crown Him the Lord of Life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.*

5. *Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n,  
Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
For He is King of all.*

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*Preacher: Vicar Jacob Kempfert / Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich  
Pianist: Kristin Matzke  
Trumpet: Daniel Neubauer  
Men's Choir*

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