

The Ascension of Our Lord



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The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, “appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues “to do and teach” (Acts 1:1), preaching “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47) even “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the Word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon “the church, which is his body” (Eph. 1:22–23). In this holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:20).

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, once Your people gathered around Your Son as He ascended into heaven to take His place of authority at Your right hand. We come together in His name, recalling the grace and mercy that is ours because of His death and resurrection, and celebrating the victory in which we have life and hope. We give thanks as we remember that He has not abandoned us, but continues among us in Word and Sacrament; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 47:5; Psalm 110:1, 4-5

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

C God has ascended amid shouts of joy, amid shouts of joy!

P The Lord says to My Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

C The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind; "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

P The Lord is at your right hand; He will crush kings on that 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.

C God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of the trumpets. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

Confession of Sins

P Let us confess our sins to our gracious God, who calls us to repentance

C Amen.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word,

and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

P God has promised forgiveness to those who turn to Him in repentance and truth. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 47

P ¹Clap your hands, all peoples!

C Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P ²For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

C a great king over all the earth.

P ³He subdued peoples under us,

C and nations under our feet.

P ⁴He chose our heritage for us,

C the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

P ⁵God has gone up with a shout,

C the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P ⁷For God is the King of all the earth;

C sing praises with a psalm!

P ⁸God reigns over the nations;

C God sits on his holy throne.

P ⁹The princes of the peoples gather

C as the people of the God of Abraham.

P For the shields of the earth belong to God;

C he is highly exalted!

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord of time and eternity, as we observe with rejoicing the day on which Your Son Jesus ascended and was received at Your right hand, give us Your grace so that we may journey from earth to Your glorious presence in heaven in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 1:6–11

A The First Reading for The Ascension of Our Lord is from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 1:15–23

A The Second Reading is from the first chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

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

C **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,⁴⁷ and that repentance and 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."

⁵⁰Then 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Sermon

Revelation 5

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Stand

This Is the Feast

LSB 155


Refrain




☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Church

P Ascended Lord Jesus, hear us now as we bring our petitions to Your throne of grace, confident that You will answer our prayers in accordance with Your good and merciful will. We pray for the Church, that we may boldly seek to make disciples of all tribes, nations, and races, baptizing them into Your holy and precious name. Without hesitancy and trepidation, may we love others as You have loved us; may we generously forgive others, as You have forgiven us in Christ; and may we boldly proclaim Your changeless message of eternal salvation.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P We pray for ourselves, that we would be Ascension-inspired disciples, reveling in the Gospel news of Your glorious triumph over sin, death, and the devil. Bolster our courage that we may in thought, word, and deed shape the lives of those people with whom we relate in our families and in our vocations. Help us to speak winsomely about Your truth, that others may earnestly desire to follow You.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P We pray for our world, formed and created by Your very Word. Help us to be wise stewards, constantly striving to preserve the balance of Your created order. Bless all people, whom You have formed in Your image, with essential physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to be consciously aware of Your immeasurable goodness.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P We pray for those with special needs, for the aged and the infirm. We remember the sick, the shut-in, and others known to each of us who earnestly desire Your healing in their lives.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Finally, Lord Jesus, we thank You for the faithful witness of all departed saints, who have heard and responded to Your message of salvation, and now rejoice in Your eternal presence. May we be inspired by their unwavering witness, and likewise, seek to serve You in love and faithfulness all our days.

C Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

160

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: *Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: *Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

Stand

The Communion Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

G Amen.

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



G Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

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P "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

C **Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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