

The Ascension of our Lord

May 24, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon
Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Ione, Oregon



Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy”

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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Invocation

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

C: Amen.

The Ascension Dialog from Psalm 47

P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

C: the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

P: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

C: How awesome is the LORD Most High,
the great King over all the earth!

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

C: For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to Him a psalm of praise.

P: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

C: for the kings of the earth belong to God;
He is greatly exalted.

P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

C: the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us now confess our sins to the Lord, for He is gracious and compassionate.

C: Lord of heaven and earth, we humbly confess all our sins to You.

We beg for Your forgiveness and seek Your love.

Help us to repent.

Reconcile us to those from whom we are estranged.

Turn us from our sins and restore us to Yourself.

P: “there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.” ¹ Timothy 2:5-6 God has promised forgiveness to those who turn to Him; and in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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. May the ascended Lord Jesus Christ abide with you always.

C: Amen. May it be so.

Ascension Psalm

Psalm 8

P: “This Psalm is a prophecy of Christ – His sufferings, resurrection, and kingly rule over all creatures. This kingdom shall be established by the voice of children, that is, it will be established not by sword or armor but by Word and faith alone.” (Martin Luther)

O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings^[b]
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Collect for The Ascension of our Lord

P: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: 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 Lesson

Ephesians 1:15–23

For 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Verse of the Day

Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

P: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia!

C: Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Twenty-Fourth chapter

C: 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." 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

**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.**

Hymn “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

- 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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Message

The Litany of the Resurrection

P: O Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, have mercy.

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: hear us.

P: Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world;

Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification;

Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

C: have mercy on us.

P: Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light;

Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women;

Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe;

Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish;

Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road;

Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C: have mercy on us.

P: By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,

By Your victory over sin and death,

By the majesty of Your risen body, good Lord, deliver us.

We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, Lord Jesus.

P: That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness;

That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You;

That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

C: grant us, good Lord.

The petitions of the Church are now offered . . .

P: *(after raising individual petitions)* Lord Jesus Christ, to You we commend all for whom we pray, crying out to You . . .

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

P: Let us bless the Lord.

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.

Dismissal

Acts 1:11

P: “They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky?”

C: 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.”

P: Christ has died!

C: For ALL my sins! Alleluia!

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Christ will come again!

C: He will certainly come again! Alleluia!

Hymn “Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels”

(to the tune of “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”)

- 1 Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav’nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.
- 2 Death-destroying, life-restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!
- 3 To our lives of wanton wand’ring
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow’r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.



- △ 4 Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to breathe the Spirit’s grace!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to see the Father’s face!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to feel the Son’s embrace!

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