

Divine Service, Setting Three LSB p.184-202
ASCENSION SUNDAY and GRADUATION SUNDAY
May21, 2023 10:45 AM

PRELUDE "All Hail the Power"

WELCOME AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" LSB #492

**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.**

**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.**

**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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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

C: **Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

P: 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.

P: Heavenly Father,

C: **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.**

P: 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. Because of His death and resurrection and your faith in His finished work of salvation, I am happy to say to you, your sins are completely forgiven!

C: Amen. We are forgiven and restored to God in Christ!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

C: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

PSALM (47) OF THE DAY (*God has ascended with shouts of praise*)

P: Our God has ascended with a mighty shout. The Lord has ascended with trumpets blaring.

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

P: Our Master has been given supreme authority in heaven and on the earth.

C: The LORD Most High is to be feared. He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet.

P: How awesome is the Lord Most High,

C: He is the great King over all the earth. He reigns above the nations, sitting on his holy throne.

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

C: For the Lord Most High is awesome! He is highly honored everywhere!

GLORIA PATRI (*"Glory to the Father"*)

(Sing) **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, world without end. A-men.**

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*"Glory to God in the Highest"*)

P: (Sing) **Glory be to God on high.**

C: And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
Art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(Sing)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **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. *(Sing)* Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Acts 1:1-11 *(Jesus' ascension and the promise of the Spirit)*

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." **6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **9** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **10** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Ephesians 1:15-23 (*Jesus seated at God's right hand.*)

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC **"We Shall Behold Him"**
Emily Allen, Soloist

By: Dottie Rambo

GOSPEL Luke 24: 44 – 53 (*Jesus and ascends into heaven*)

R: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty fourth chapter.

C: (*Sing*) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." **45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **50** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **52** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. **53** And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sing*) **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. *(Please be seated)*

HYMN OF THE DAY **“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”** **LSB #493**

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!

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!

“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!

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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SERMON “Christ – On Heaven’s Throne” Ephesians 1:19-23
(Sermon outline on back of Bulletin)

OFFERING *(As joyful givers, we clap for the offering)*

OFFERTORY “Exalt the Lord Medley”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(Sing)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(Sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: *(Sing)* **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

C: (*Sing*) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI (*"Peace of the Lord"*)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (*Sing*) **A-men.**

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*) (*Sing*)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
 Have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
 Have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
 Grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Song of Simeon*) (*Sing*)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
 For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
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,
 World without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good,

C: (*Sing*) **And His mercy endureth forever.**

P: Let us pray.....

C: (*Sing*) **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

C: (Sing) Amen, Amen, A-men.

CLOSING HYMN We Are Called to Stand Together LSB #828

**We are called to stand together With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured Now we find fulfilled at last!**

**To each coming generation Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
Till the time when time is ended, Till the Savior comes again—
Till the saints are all united Under Christ's eternal reign!**

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POSTLUDE "Allegro"

By: Cesar Franck