

Worship Script
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - ASCENSION (Observed)
Sunday, May 21, 2023 8:15 AM

WELCOME AND GREETING

INVOCATION AND PSALM (47) OF THE DAY

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

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen and ascended!

C: He is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

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!

OPENING PRAISE "Open Up The Heavens"

**We've waited for this day We're gathered in your name
Calling out to you**

**Your glory like a fire Awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth**

You're the reason we're here You're the reason we're singing

**Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise**

**Your presence in this place Your glory on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud You're standing with us now
Lord, unveil our eyes**

**You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing**

**Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise**

**Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord**

**Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord**

**Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise**

**Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord**

**Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord**

**Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord**

Song Select # 6304702 CCLI # 549168

CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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!

SONG "Your Love Never Fails"

**Nothing can separate Even if I run away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes But, You have new mercies for me everyday
Your love never fails**

**You stay the same through the ages Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me Your love never fails
Your love never fails**

**The wind is strong and the water's deep But I'm not alone here in these open seas
'Cause Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide I never thought I'd reach the other side
But Your love never fails,**

**You stay the same through the ages Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me Your love never fails
Your love never fails**

**'Cause You make all things work together for my good
You make all things work together for my good**

**'Cause You make all things work together for my good
You make all things work together for my good**

**You stay the same through the ages Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me Your love never fails
Your love never fails**

CCLI # 549168

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.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 24:44-53 (*Jesus ascends into heaven*)

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.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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)***

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

PRAYERS and THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

MUSICAL OFFERING “God is on the Throne”

**God is on the throne He reigns forevermore
Just think about it Just think about it, yeah**

**Why should I worry? Why should I fear?
Why should I run When Jesus is here?
I'm safe in His arms Safe in His heart
And nothing can take me away from His love
Why should I worry? Why should I fear?
Why should I run When Jesus is here?
I'm safe in His arms Safe in His heart
And nothing can take me away**

**God is on the throne He reigns forevermore
Just think about it Just think about it
God is always good He loves like a father should
Just think about it Just think about it**

**When I am anxious, when I'm afraid
I find the strength when I call on His Name
I'm safe in His arms, safe in His heart
And nothing can take me away
He's the King of power, King of kings
He is the Lord over everything
To Him be the glory, the honor and praise
Forever and ever, amen always**

**God is on the throne He reigns forevermore
Just think about it Just think about it
God is always good He loves like a father should
Just think about it Just think about it**

**Hallelujah, He reigns Hallelujah, He saves
Hallelujah, always He's never gonna let me down**

**Hallelujah, He reigns Hallelujah, He saves
Hallelujah, always He's never gonna let me down**

**Hallelujah, He reigns Hallelujah, He saves
Hallelujah, always He's never gonna let me down**

**God is on the throne He reigns forevermore
Just think about it Just think about it
God is always good He loves like a father should
Just think about it Just think about it**

**Song Select 7204745
CCLI # 549168**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "Oceans"

**You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand**

**And I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine**

**Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now**

**So I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine, oh
And You are mine,**

**Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour**

**Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour**

**Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour**

**I will call upon Your Name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine**

**Song Select 6428767
CCLI # 549168**