



Sunday, May 12, 2024
Ascension

Service Theme
**CHRIST'S ASCENSION MEANS
HE IS CLOSER THAN EVER**

Conventional wisdom would say if Christ has ascended into heaven, he is further away from his followers than when he was visibly on earth. The resurrection reality is that it is the other way around. Now that Christ has ascended, he is closer than ever. The living and ascended Savior has reassumed full use of all his divine power. So if you need Christ's help, you don't need to hunt for him in Galilee. You call to him in prayer, wherever you are, whenever you want, and he hears and acts. You want to hear Jesus speak? You don't need to chase him down. Open his Word and listen to his powerful, life-giving voice. The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world.

Hymn

CW 173 "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

**1 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 shall come and call them.**

**2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me 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 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully,
Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.**

Order of Service

Divine Service 1 (CWS p.15)

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

C: Amen!

ASCENSION DIALOGUE

M: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

M: How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C: He has set his glory above the heavens.

For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C: He is exalted far above all gods.

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

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

M: The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

C: He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

M: The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

C: A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

M: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

C: His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: (*sing*) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(CWS p.16)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *(sing)* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, glory to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(CWS p.18)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

1st Lesson

Acts 1:1-11 (EHV)

Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ²until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which 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 were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them.

¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

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

**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

Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:16–23 (EHV)

St. Paul teaches that Jesus ascended so that he might fill all creation with his presence and his power. Nothing is outside his control.

¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. ²⁰It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God 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, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. ²³The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Verse of the Day

(CWS p.19)

Alleluia. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53 (EHV)

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord! Glory be to you, O Lord!

The risen Savior ascended, and his disciples responded with joyful worship.

⁴⁴He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to 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.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostles Creed

(CWS p.20)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

CW 558 "Christ High-Ascended"

**1 Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,
Throned and exalted, victory completed,
Death's dread dominion finally defeated—
We are his witnesses.**

**2 Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing,
Who on his chosen lifted hands in blessing,
Sends forth his servants, still in faith confessing—
We are his witnesses.**

**3 Christ, who in dying won for us salvation,
Lives now the firstborn of the new creation;
To win disciples out of ev'ry nation,
We are his witnesses.**

**4 Christ in his splendor, all dominion gaining,
Christ with his people evermore remaining,
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning—
We are his witnesses.**

**5 As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving,
Faith in his presence strengthen our believing;
Filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving,
We are his witnesses.**

Sermon Text & Theme

Ephesians 1:16-23 ... To our Ascended Lord, we pray:

- 1) Give us the Holy Spirit
- 2) Fill us with hope.
- 3) Rule for our good.

Create In Me

(CWS p.21)

C: *(sing)* Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold, uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for Ascension

M: Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.

M: Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

C: **As the devil, the world, and our sinful nature seek to silence our witness, grant us courage to believe and confess that Jesus is Lord.**

M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us to pray for others:
to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed
grant relief;
to the dying and those who mourn
bring comfort;
to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed
send your help;
to the elderly,
give joy for living life to the full;
to the young,
send patience to wait for the fuller life to come;
to husbands and wives and their families and to
single parents who raise their children alone
grant wisdom and strength.

C: Show mercy to all those in need and bestow your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.

M: Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

C: Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.

M: Come with your guidance, O Lord, and pour out your blessings on all who have gathered here to proclaim your love in speech, song, and symbol. May our worship enrich us so that our work for others adorns your love among them.

C: Lead us to praise you as we joyfully wait for your return.

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he always intercedes for us as our own high priest. 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.

C: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us.

Special Intercessions

M: Heavenly Father, you are the source of life, wisdom, and all good things. Look with favor on all mothers who have given life to their children and nurture them with loving concern and faithful instruction. May their children honor them and call them blessed. When they become weary, sustain them with physical and spiritual rest; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

(CWS p.22)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Final Prayer & Blessing

(CWS p.27)

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you
peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CW21 893 "For all the faithful women"

**1 For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness,
proclaimed your pow'r to save.**

**3 O God, for saints and servants,
those named and those unknown,
in whom through all the ages
your light of glory shone,
we offer glad thanksgiving
and fervent prayer we raise
that, faithful in your service,
our lives may sing your praise.**

**4 All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise to God the Spirit,
who binds the church as one!
With saints who went before us,
with saints who witness still,
we sing glad alleluias
and strive to do your will.**

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

May 19 - Luke // May 26 - Timothy

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship

We (15) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (16) 6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (17) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Su (19) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

Pastor will be in the US from May 22-28th. If you need to reach him during that time, please call his US number: (512) 887-8982.

Su (26) 9:00 am NO Sunday School or Bible Class
10:30 am Lay led Worship



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