

The Ascension of Our Lord
May 26, 2022 (celebrated May 22, 2022)



Thought: In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus. We find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter message.

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: Faith may not be looking up, but looking out.

C: Faith may not be knowing the answers, but asking the questions.

A: Faith may not be judging the righteousness, but loving the fearful.

C: Faith may not be doctrine memorized, but risk taken.

A: Let us entrust ourselves to faith in God.

C: Let it be so!

Gathering Hymn – “O Christ, Our Hope” ELW # 604

<https://youtu.be/EX7kkMm9tuk>

O Christ, Our Hope - Concordia

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Ascension Litany

P: As Jesus was lifted up into heaven,

C: a cloud took him out of human sight.

P: Today, our Savior is still out of sight,

C: but not out of mind.

P: Though we cannot see him now,

C: we know that he is reigning over us in love.

P: Though we cannot see him now,

C: we remember the many words he shared and the deeds he performed while he was visible on earth.

P: Though we cannot see him now,

C: we are sure that he is preparing a place for us above.

P: Though we cannot see him now,

C: we know that we will see him soon.

P: For the clouds that once covered Christ

C: will one day move aside to reveal our coming King.

Alleluia!

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” ELW 669

<https://youtu.be/1LvoE1vCeT8>

Rise Up, O Saints of God! – Yale UMC

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us.

C: Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Word

First reading – Acts 1:1-11

The Angels said: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy

Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second reading – Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work 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 age to come.
²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Luke 24:44-53

<https://youtu.be/Nfkt0FyxhXA>

On the day of his ascension Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been 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 was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/Q8CZHQcbYFc>

Homily – “You Are My Witnesses” – Pastor Barnes

<https://youtu.be/RfAocJPx84A>

Hymn of the Day – “You Servants of God” ELW # 825

https://youtu.be/E_tjherylcc

You Servants of God – Easy Worship Resources

Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Holy One, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In the suffering and death of Jesus, draw near to those who suffer and for whom death approaches (*especially*). Hold them in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us. By their lives and the life and death of Jesus, enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

A: Heavenly Father, you accepted Christ's offering of himself, and raised him from death to rule on high. Spurred on by his example,

C: we bring these offerings now.

A: They are our pledge to serve him, forever.

C: They are symbols of our hope for a bright future.

A: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...
With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal" ELW # 464

<https://youtu.be/TcxNJw3NvSs>

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal – Mary Munson

Words of Institution

The 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.

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: O Christ, though you reign on high, you are with us in this meal.

C: We rejoice in your rule. We rejoice in your presence.

A: And we bend to your will. Rule in our lives with your immeasurable love –

C: the love you have shown since the world's birth.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “We All Are One in Mission” ELW # 576

<https://youtu.be/w0AmVKrX6xg>

We All Are One in Mission – First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln Neb.

Dismissal

A: (John 20:21) Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

C: We go in peace to serve the Lord.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

