



# The Ascension of Our Lord

+ WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP +

**PRELUDE** *We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend* Settings by Carl Schalk and Johann Walther

## THE BRIEF RITE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

## INTROIT

### 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.**

### KYRIE

- A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A 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.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C **Amen**

### WORDS OF PRAISE

- A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 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. 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. Amen**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. . . . (The prayer concludes:)
- C **Amen**

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## + WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD +

**FIRST LESSON** – A Reading from Acts (*A reading from Acts replaces the Old Testament reading during the Easter season.*)

### **Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After 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. While 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM** – A Reading from the Psalter

### **Psalm 47**

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

**He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

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

**God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

**SECOND LESSON** – A Reading from the New Testament

### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God 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, far 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**VERSE (Gradual) – Paul Bunjes (1914–1998)**

### **THE GOSPEL READING**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 24:44-53**

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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And 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.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

**ANTHEM** *To Thee, Jehovah, Will I Sing Praises* Johann Sebastian Bach

### **NICENE CREED**

**C We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven;  
    by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

### THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
and for all people according to their needs.

After each prayer:

A Lord, in your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C **Amen**

### PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*The congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you."*

## THE OFFERTORY

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation  
and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all his people, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our selves, our  
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the  
sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(After each petition, we will hold a moment of silence to give us time to consider the words of this prayer. Try not to worry about when the next petition will begin, just focus on the words you said. The pastor will initiate the next petition and just join in. This is a terrific way to pray if you find you do not know what to say. It is also a way to intentionally consider the words our Lord has given us to pray without merely repeating them in vein or without thought.)*

**C** Our Father, who art in heaven,

*(Pause)*

hallowed be thy name,

*(Pause)*

thy kingdom come,

*(Pause)*

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

*(Pause)*

Give us this day our daily bread;

*(Pause)*

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

*(Pause)*

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

*(Pause)*

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

**+WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD+**

**BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. He is risen! **C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Worship Enablers**

Pastor Evan McClanahan

Dorry Shaddock

Rob Douglass

Rachel Amos

Preacher, presider

Organist

Assisting Minister

Soloist