



Ascension of Our Lord (Observed) May 12, 2024 Setting 4 8:15

The End Is a New Beginning

Prelude

As We Gather

We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point. But our Lord's presence and voice is with us in the Scriptures and Sacraments. With the disciples, we return with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation "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.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

A Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

A Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Easter Acclamation

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Service of the Word

Introit

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool."

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

"You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord is at your right hand;

he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

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.

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Kyrie (sing)

- ☐ **Lord, have mercy;**
- Christ, have mercy;**
- Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis (sing)

- ☐ **To God on high be glory**
- And peace to all the earth;**
- Goodwill from God in heaven**
- Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!**

We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

**To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.**

**Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;**

**You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1: 1-11

(The Lord ascends from their sight and the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "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 had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle

Ephesians 1: 15-23

(Paul commends the faith of the congregation in the context of the resurrection and ascension of Christ.)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he 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 and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (stand to sing)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written
that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 24: 44-53

*(The evangelist records how Christ opened the Scriptures to the disciples
before ascending in glory before their sight.)*

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **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.**

Hymn of the Day "Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels" LSB 491

**Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.**

**Death-destroying, life-restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!**

**To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to see the Father's face!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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Sermon "The End Is a New Beginning" Luke 24: 44-53

Prayer of the Church Mother's Day

A Risen, ascended, and glorified Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant us grace that we may recognize Your presence in Word and Sacrament and receive there the fruits of Your redeeming work until You come again to deliver us into Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Sustain Your church, O Lord, that she may be faithful in all that You have given her to do and be kept in unity of doctrine and life through these days of trial until at last the church in heaven and the church on earth are one in Your presence on high. Fill our people, here at SPLC, with the fullness of Your Spirit enabling us to discern Your Kingdom's purpose in our Denton community. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Ascended Lord, we pray for Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Kirk Kessler, Roger & Peggy Kindt, James, Kathy, Jason King, Neil, Rosa, Alexander Kiphen. Bless the children of our CLC Konnor, Will, Haiden, Deliah, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Order all things on earth by Your Word that those entrusted with the leadership of the nations may repent and seek to fulfill Your purpose in the pursuit of peace, justice, and godliness on behalf of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Heavenly Father, within Your creative order You made Your special creation male and female. You blessed them to be fruitful. Be with all mothers, that they may faithfully do the work You have set before them. Bring them honor in this vocation as they continue to serve their families and others in Your gracious love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Supply to the sick and those who suffer the grace to sustain them in the day of their trouble and give comfort to the dying and those who mourn, especially *Kim Taylor, Paul Hatman, Bill Nielsen, Mildred Pittman, Mary Fodor, Jan Peterson, Charles Barber, Ed Mischen, Jose Luna, Ken Wolski, Debra Berger, Janet Pollard, Greg Coleman, Carol Danner, James Allen, Joseph Davis, Janice Weikert, Chris Quakenbush, Tammy Tolbert, Dave Peterson, Erik Peterson.* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A By Your Spirit bring us to repentance and to faith in Your Word and promise, that we may approach Your altar with confidence and receive for our benefit Your body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Help us by Your grace to lead a holy and godly life, worthy of our calling as Your own people by Baptism and faith, and help us to give witness to the hope that is within us before a world in darkness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we bring with our lips and the tithes and offerings of our hands as the worship acceptable in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Having in remembrance all those who have loved Your appearing and who now rest in Your mercy, we pray for that day when we shall join with them in the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom without end.

C **Glory, honor, blessing, and praise to You, O risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering Are Received

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A 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 Him thanks and praise.**

A It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sing)

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest,
sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- A** Having revealed Your glory in the face of Your only-begotten Son, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation, You have exalted Him to the highest majesty at Your right hand, that He might graciously fill all things.
- P** Grant us faithfully to eat and drink this Holy Supper, trusting our reigning Savior Jesus, who, though unseen in His ascended glory, is here present to save by His body and blood.
- A** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei (sing)

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn "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!**

**The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful foll'wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
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!

**Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Then, throned with You forever, we

Shall praise Your name eternally.

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!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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Distribution Hymn "O Living Bread from Heaven" LSB 642

**O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.**

**My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.**

**You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.**

**Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.**

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis (sing)

**☪ O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn to Depart "Spread the Reign of God the Lord" LSB 830

Spread the reign of God the Lord,

Spoken, written, mighty Word;

Ev'rywhere His creatures call

To His heav'nly banquet hall.

**Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.**

**Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.**

**Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.**

**Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!**

**Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.**

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite

Text: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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