



Ascension of Our Lord (Observed) May 12, 2024 Blended 10:45 IV

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

+ PREPARATION +

Opening Song "Forever Jesus" SSP 85

My hymn of praise shall be forever Jesus

My firm foundation in shifting sands

My strength and hope

Through many fears and failures

The disappointments of the past

His constant love has held me fast

So for all my days

I will sing my praise

To the King forever Jesus

Though the storms may rage

He is strong to save

He's the King forever Jesus

My song of joy will be forever Jesus

Who bore my suff'ring who made a way

His life a gift His death a precious ransom

That wipes the sinner's guilt away

And turns my night to glorious day

So for all my days I will sing my praise

To the King forever Jesus

Though the storms may rage

He is strong to save

He's the King forever Jesus

**My final breath shall be forever Jesus
When shadows lengthen before my eyes
My Lord and friend
Companion through the valley
When dearest ones are left behind
His hand will lead me to the Light**

**So for all my days I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
Though the storms may rage
He is strong to save
He's the King forever Jesus**

**When I meet his gaze
I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
All my sorrows past I am home at last
With my King forever Jesus
With my King forever Jesus
With my King forever Jesus**

Text: Matt Papa | Stuart Townend

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Song of Confession SSP 96

(Begin your silent confession as the music begins)

**I confess to you, O Lord,
that I have sinned.**

**I confess to you, O Lord,
all my sin within.**

**I have failed to live for you
In the things I say and do,
And have fallen short of living
in your love.**

**I confess to you, O Lord,
that I have sinned.**

**I confess to you, O Lord,
all my sin within.**

**I have placed myself above,
And have hurt the ones I love,
And I know that only you
can set me free.**

Lord, have mercy on me.

**Lord, have mercy,
set me free.**

**O forgive me, Lord, I pray
And take my sin away,
By the cross and empty grave
for my soul**

**Take us back to the water.
Wash away our sins.
Welcome us, O Father,
Back to Your home again.
Bless Your sons and daughters,
And let the feast begin,
Let it begin!**

**Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy,
set me free.
O forgive me, Lord, I pray
And take my sin away,
By the cross and empty grave
for my soul**

Absolution:

The Lord has had mercy on you and has sent His Son Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for your sins. By his Word and Promise I declare to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are forgiven. You are set free.

**You take us back to the water.
You wash away our sins.
You welcome us, O Father,
Back to Your home again.
You bless Your sons and daughters.
Now let the feast begin, Let it begin!**

**Lord, Your mercy covers me.
Lord, Your mercy
has set me free.
You've forgiven me today,
And my sins are washed away
By the cross and empty grave
for my soul.**

**Lord, Your mercy covers me.
Lord, Your mercy
has set me free.
You've forgiven me today,
And my sins are washed away
By the cross and empty grave
for my soul.**

Text (sts. , , , , , , ,): Michael A Schmid

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+ WORD +

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

O Lord, to whom our Savior ascended in His glory and from whose right hand He works to supply His church with the fruits of His redeeming work, keep us in faith that we may be sustained by His mercy and brought to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Lesson

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.**

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.**

CLC Chimes "Father, I Adore You"

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.**

Children's Song "Shine!"

Shine from the inside out

That the world will see You live in me

Shine from the inside out

That the world will see You live in me

You know me and You love me

You fill me so send me to

Shine from the inside out

That the world will see You live in me

Shine from the inside out

That the world will see You live in me

You know me and You love me

You fill me so send me to SHINE!

Text: Nick Jackson

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Children's Message

Hymn for Today "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

- 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.**

A Lord, teach us to pray...

**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.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Offers 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.)

+ SACRAMENT +

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, almighty God, for all that was written has been fulfilled, and Your promises remain through Christ, who was born, lived a perfect life, sacrificially died, victoriously rose, and gloriously ascended into heaven. The forgiveness won for us is enough amid our broken and sinful lives, and in His presence now at this Table we ask that You grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Until the day Christ returns in the same way He went into heaven, gather us 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 **Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Song of Sacrifice "Lamb of God" setting 163 (sing)

C **Lamb of God, You take away**
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Distribution Song "In Christ Alone" SSP 38

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

Text: Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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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

Song of Thanks "Thank the Lord" LSB p. 164 (sing)

C **Thank the Lord and sing His praise;**
tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a taste of the feast that waits for us when Your Son returns. Keep us firm in the true faith and lead us as Your witnesses, proclaiming repentance and the forgiveness of sins to everyone in the name of Your Son, our ascended Lord, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

A 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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **AMEN!**

Song of Departure "The Lion and the Lamb" SSP 100

He's coming on the clouds

Kings and kingdoms will bow down

And every chain will break

As broken hearts declare His praise

For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Our God is the Lion

The Lion of Judah

He's roaring with power

And fighting our battles

And every knee will

bow before Him

Our God is the Lamb

The Lamb that was slain

For the sins of the world

His blood breaks the chains

And every knee will bow

before the Lion and the Lamb

Every knee will

bow before Him

So open up the gates

Make way before the King of kings

**The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop
the Lord Almighty**

**Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will
bow before Him**

**Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow
before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will
bow before Him**

**Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord!**

**Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will
bow before Him**

**Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow
before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will
bow before Him**

Text: Brenton Brown | Brian Johnson | Leeland Mooring

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Postlude

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