

ASCENSION: A FLIGHT IN EASTERTIDE

Note: Prepare bread and juice if you wish to share in communion; make a white or yellow streamer, with the word "alleluia" printed on it. These streamers can be handed to people as they enter.

PRELUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

UMH 154

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

WELCOME ABOARD Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Spiritual Formation Director

"ALLELUIA"

Now, let's give our in-flight Alleluia Plan a try:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

Thanks be to God for the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God for new life, now and forever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

We realize many of you have done a lot of travelling, but please listen carefully to these directions from our ancient Flight Book.

First, I am required to draw your attention to exit routes and turbulence, because this journey, like any other, is not without its dangers and difficulties. In order to get the very best out of our travel together, please read the words in the Flight Book often, even after we disembark. Listen now to these words that our Flight Captain provides.

WORDS FROM THE CAPTAIN: Acts 1:1-5

HYMN

"HE LIVES"

chorus only, UMH 310

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

You will find many regulations and flight plans in our Flight Book; the main focus is to love God, your neighbor, and yourself. That's what the references to Jesus Christ dying and suffering for others are all about, and this is the part that will guide us today.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

It was always a struggle for Jesus, as it is for us. There are bound to be those who travel with us whom we might not particularly want to travel with. And of course, there are others who will always need our help. The best advice is to try to follow His example and you will never have to use the escape routes.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

You must have noticed by now that the seat you are in is not very comfortable. It offers no protection on your journey against illness, personal problems or world tragedies. You can alleviate some discomfort by not sitting throughout your flight. The Flight Book advises prayer and service, and our crew will remind you that actions speak louder than words.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

HYMN "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

UMH 173

OUR FLIGHT PATH

Our flight path will take us through a wide range of weather conditions. Air traffic control says we can expect it to be very turbulent and bumpy at times.

Under your seat you will find a life jacket, which you must put on quickly should an emergency arise. Also, oxygen masks will drop automatically.

Remember, help is never far away from your crew and fellow passengers. You are never on your own.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

MORE WORDS FROM THE CAPTAIN: Acts 1:6-11

HYMN

"HE LIVES"

chorus only, UMH 310

THE CREW

As you can see, our true Flight Captain is not in the cockpit today but has sent another to guide us on our journey. In fact, all of you are being certified as Crew leaders to guide others and give flight directions for their journeys. We will travel together and never be alone. The first flight on Ascension Day set all of this in motion.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

CARRY-ON BAGGAGE

(Lifting up our in-flight prayers)

All carry-on baggage should be stored before take-off, although we realize you will always carry baggage with you no matter where you are, which is why we always need to pray -

O risen and ascended Lord, hear us as we come aboard with you.

Be with us now as we unpack our prayers before you,

and as we continue in our studies and ministry.

Guide us as we travel closer to you.

Hear the prayers on our hearts and minds that we now lift to you... *(pause)*

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen and Alleluia.

Alleluia and Amen.

OUR DESTINATION

Finally, just a quick word about our destination. The Flight Book suggests it is more wonderful than we can imagine. Vast numbers have made the journey there before us. Unfortunately, there are no maps showing us the route. But Jesus, our flight captain, makes it possible for us; he was the first to journey into this great unknown. He ascended to greatness and promises us a safe arrival with him.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

HYMN "I'll Fly Away"

TFWS 2282

THE MENU

Now a few words about today's Menu...

And now for the rest of our flight together, please feel free to unmute your mic and say the Alleluia responses together.

ALLELUIA

ALLELUIA!

We pray you will experience a sense of community in this meal as you continue your weekend studies. It was introduced many years ago by One who saw it as a kind of farewell dinner. This meal is a holy sacrament, freely available to everyone.

ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA!

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

To you Creator God, who spoke the universe into being, who formed us in your own image, who called us by name, to you we lift our hearts and give you our thanks:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Before he parted from his friends, Jesus prepared a last supper. He took some bread, and gave thanks for it. Then he broke it and gave it to them.

"Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Remember me," (*LIFT BREAD*)

And when supper was almost over, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them.

"This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood for your forgiveness.

Take and drink from it all of you, and remember me." (*LIFT CUP*)

And so, in this meal we remember, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Risen Christ, breathe your Spirit upon this bread and juice. May they become our spiritual food and drink. Breathe your Spirit upon us even in our distance, that we may be your body, revealing your presence in the world.

Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Risen Christ, in the breaking of this bread, come to us. (*Eat BREAD*)

Ascended Christ, in the pouring of the juice, come to us. (*Drink JUICE*)

PRAYER

Risen and Ascended Christ, we give you thanks for this holy mystery.

**Grant that we may go into the world, reconciled and forgiven,
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

DISEMBARK WITH A BLESSING FOR ASCENSION

O God, give to us a vision of your kingdom:

We look for you, straining our eyes.

We race after you, trying to catch you.

We wander the streets, calling your name.

And you are here, Lord. Help us see.

AMEN & ALLELUIA!

ALLELUIA & AMEN!

POSTLUDE

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

UMH 327

SOURCES:

Format adapted from “A Flight of Fancy” in *Dirt, Mess and Danger: liturgies and worship resources*, by Glendon Macaulay (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2011); Prayers and communion liturgy adapted from *Fire and Bread*, by Ruth Burgess, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2006)