



# ASCENSION DAY

Thursday, May 18, 2023

# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 18, 2023

**Theme: “The Throne of Victory”**

**As We Gather:** We gather together this Ascension Day to celebrate Christ the King taking His rightful seat in glory, honor, and authority at God the Father’s right hand. With the ancient worshipers, who clapped their hands and shouted praises to God at the coronation of their king, we rejoice in the victory Jesus earned for us by His death for our sin and His resurrection over death’s grave. Our praises keep rolling from our Easter celebration some forty days ago, all the way to today and even beyond, as we witness that Jesus’ ascension is the capstone of His victory. Scepter in hand and seated upon His throne, Christ reigns over all things in heaven and on earth. We are honored to be in His presence this day and receive from our King the gifts He gracefully bestows.

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

- 1 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!
  
- 2 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!

4 “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!

5 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!

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

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*Based on Colossians 1:15–19*

- P** Let us come before our Lord and King in a time of confession so that we may receive assurance of His mercy and forgiveness.

*We take a moment of silence for personal prayers and reflection.*

- P** Lord Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**C** **All things have been created by You: things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible.**

- P** All things are Yours, including us. We have been created by You and for Your glory.

**C** **Yet our sinfulness separates us from You and Your will for our lives. By what we do and what we fail to do, we fall apart without You holding us together.**

- P** Lord Jesus, in all things You reign supreme. You are the King of all, the Sovereign of our souls. God the Father dwells fully in You.
- C** **By Your blood, You have reconciled us to the Father. By Your cross, grant us Your forgiveness and peace. Amen.**

- P** Our merciful God is pleased to have all His fullness dwell in His crucified, risen, and ascended Son, Jesus Christ. He alone is the image of God, and in Him all things hold together. Through faith in Christ, you and I have been reconciled to God and stand renewed in His presence. As a called and ordained servant of Christ the King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

### Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
- Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended to His throne of victory,
- C** **grant that we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him,**
- P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### + THE WORD +

### First Reading

*Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And 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;

<sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But 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.” <sup>9</sup>And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and 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.

## **Psalmody (sung)**

*Psalm 47*

**Antiphon:**

**Verses: (Cantor/Congregation)**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all | peoples!\*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

**<sup>2</sup>For the Lord, the Most High, is | to be feared,\*  
a great king over | all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples | under us,\*  
and nations un- | der our feet.

**<sup>4</sup>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.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the Lord with the sound of a | trumpet.

**<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing | praises!\***  
**Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the King of | all the earth;\*  
sing praises | with a psalm!

**<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the | nations;\***  
**God sits on His | holy throne.**

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

<sup>9</sup>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 ex- | alted!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

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

## **Epistle**

*Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that 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, <sup>18</sup>having 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might <sup>20</sup>that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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 one to come. <sup>22</sup>And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which 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.**

## Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53 (ESV)

<sup>44</sup>Then [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.” <sup>45</sup>Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And 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.” <sup>50</sup>Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

(The Paschal Candle is extinguished.)

<sup>52</sup>And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph

*tune: Hyfrydol*

- 1 See, the Lord ascends in triumph;  
Conqu’ring King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,  
To His heav’nly palace gate.  
Hark! The choirs of angel voices  
Joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted  
To receive their heav’nly King.
- 2 Who is this that comes in glory  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,  
He has gained the victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan;  
He by death has crushed His foes.

3 While He lifts His hands in blessing,  
He is parted from His friends;  
While their eager eyes behold Him,  
He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him,  
Preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated  
To His everlasting home.

5 He has raised our human nature  
On the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heav'nly places,  
There with Him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord's ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, abr., alt., Text: Public domain

## **Sermon** **“LAST WORDS”**

*Pr. Jim Sprengle*  
Acts 1:1-11

## **Response - “He Is Exalted”**

He is exalted, The King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted, And I will praise His name.  
He is the Lord, Forever His truth shall reign;  
Heaven and earth, Rejoice in His holy name.  
He is exalted, The King is exalted on high.  
*(repeat from beginning)*

Words and music by Twila Paris. CCLI Song No. 17827.

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## **Apostles' Creed**

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.

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

## Tithes and Offerings

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** The King invites His people to boldly pray and seek His will for our lives.

Loving Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to bear our sins and to be our Savior. By His death, He has destroyed death. By His rising to new life, He has given to us the guarantee of life forever with You. By His ascension to heaven's glorious throne, He has proven that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **reign in our hearts.**

**P** Sovereign of all, we thank You that nothing is hidden from Your sight. In mercy, You have redeemed Your fallen creation by reconciling sinners to their Creator through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Look with favor upon us and our families, our congregation and our community, guiding our steps in the way of peace. Grant boldness to all who bear Your name, raising up faithful men and women who serve in positions of leadership among us, that we each may live out our callings under Your authority and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **reign in our hearts.**

**P** Restoring Redeemer, the brokenness of our lives bears witness to the fact that, without You holding us together, we are lost and hopeless. Rescue those who despair, and grant patience to those suffering in times of trial, anguish, and loss. Comfort those who are saddened by the death of those they love. Fill with perfect peace those who belong to You, *including . . .* Let all who hunger and thirst for what You alone can give find their solace and rest in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **reign in our hearts.**

**P** Crucified, risen, and exalted King, our Lord Jesus, with the ancient worshipers who clapped their hands and shouted their praises at the coronation of their sovereign, we rejoice in Your exaltation to the Father's glory and in Your promise to come again. Preserve us in faith until that coming, glorious, and awesome Day! Instill in us an ever-deepening reliance upon Your Word and Spirit. Make us one, Lord, even as You are one. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **reign in our hearts.**

**P** With confidence in the King who reigns supreme and governs all things in heaven and on earth for the benefit of His people, we entrust our prayers into Your care, O gracious Father, for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer (sung)**

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen.**

### **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.**

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for Thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king  
Through all eternity.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,  
Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903  
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## Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God!

## Acknowledgments

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## **Our Vision Statement:**

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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