

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION
MAY 24, 2020**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Spanish Melody
Arranged by Matt Limbaugh

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ps. 139)

Where can we go from God's presence? Where can we flee from God's spirit?

If we ascend to heaven, God is there. If we die on earth, God is here.

If we take the wings of the morning, and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

God, even there your hand shall lead me, your hand shall hold me fast.

Even if the darkness covers us, and the light around us becomes night,

Even the darkness is not dark to you, O God.

For the night is as bright as the day,

Darkness is as light to you.

Come, let us worship the God who created us.

Let us worship the God who brings us into life.

HYMN 260 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

William Chatterton Dix

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus,; His the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone!

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you ever more?”

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, and stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven thy throne

As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;

Here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of life, we do not know the face of the future, any more than your disciples did. Like them, we have many questions: how to live how to bear witness. Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit to inspire us in our living to give us a heart language in our testimony. You have been raised in glory that we might rise with dignity You live in power that we might live in peace You are present everywhere that we might be fully present in our own lives. Be present with us now, inspire us, and give us hope. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Trust in the One who made us and redeemed us. Let us confess our sin together before one another and before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we have our eyes set in the clouds instead of on the earth You have given us.

We desire heavenly treasure but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it.

Forgive us for our short sightedness.

Draw us away from the temptations to seek worldly power and measures of success, and call us to the down-to-earth message of Your love, to care for the needs of those around us, especially the oppressed and marginalized.

You have called us through scripture to care for the widows and orphans among us; help us to see all those who are left out by society and are in need.

Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed, so that we may truly be one, as You and Christ are one.

For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We were made by God, brought forth from the earth, the earth that was called good when God created it. Our very being is good. We dwell in it. Go, know that we are forgiven and loved by the God who made the earth, and made us.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of life, God of love, open our hearts and enter in, that hearing your word of love, we may become your love for others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ACTS 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

PSALM 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

²**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

³He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

⁴**He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

⁷For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

⁸**God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

⁹The 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.

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON

Where Do We Look for Jesus?

HYMN 691 LORD, WHEN I CAME INTO THIS LIFE

**Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.**

**Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.**

**In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
Let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.**

**So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true;
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rex Champion, *A Treasury of Prayer*)

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.

**This your ascension,
your ascendancy over the whole universe.**

You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.

You stand above all that is worst as the ultimate victor.

You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.

**You stand above all failure and weakness and sin
as forgiveness and love.**

You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.

You are Lord,

'My Lord and my God.'

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

HYMN 265 JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN

Isaac Watts

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run;

His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown His head;

His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;

And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

**Blessings abound where'er He reigns: the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

**Coronation
Oliver Holden
Arranged by Marianne Kim**

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