THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD/MEMORIAL DAY

Going or Coming?

AS WE GATHER

In a mysterious way, the ascension of our Lord into heaven is both a going but also a coming. Our eyes see Him ascending through the clouds, meaning He no longer needs to be appearing and reappearing as He did for forty days after Easter. He is with us whether we can see Him or not. But the eyes of faith see Him demonstrating His power to continue coming to us by His Spirit working through the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments up to this very day and to the end of the ages. Therefore this final event of His earthly ministry is not something to be feared. Rather, it gives us great joy and confidence for our continued faith and hope.
GATHERING SONG

COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP
Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God.
One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly love You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come!

※ PREPARATION ※

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG EVERLASTING GOD Brown—Riley

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

CHORUS: You are the everlasting God The everlasting God
You do not faint You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Pastor: Let us confess our sins, that we receive forgiveness and are prepared to know and live the true joy of this day.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: In the joy of this day, and upon this, your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God and, in the stead and by the ascension command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the *Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

※ WORD ※

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1–11
(The ascension)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6
Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.
People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
People: He has put all things under His feet.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 1:15–23
(Thanksgiving and prayer)

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

(You are witnesses.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."
Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into
heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kathy Johnson

SONG OF THE DAY

WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED

LSB 603

SERMON

“Authority”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

NICENE CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

OFFERING

GOD’S NOT DEAD (LIKE A LION)

Daniel Bashta

Let love explode and bring the dead to life
A love so bold to see a revolution somehow REPEAT

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome

CHORUS: My God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion
God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion,
Roaring, He's roaring, He's roaring like a lion

Let hope arise and make the darkness hide
My faith is dead I need a resurrection somehow REPEAT

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome CHORUS
HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Pastor: 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.”
DISTRIBUTION SONGS

THE WONDERFUL CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

CHORUS: O, the wonderful cross, O, the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find That I may truly live.
O, the wonderful cross, O, the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small?
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.  CHORUS
GOOD, GOOD FATHER

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You’re like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night and
You tell me that You’re pleased
And that I'm never alone

CHORUS: You're a Good Good Father It's who You are
It's who You are, It's who You are And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, It's who I am, It's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word CHORUS

You are perfect in all of Your ways, You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
You are perfect in all of Your ways, You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still Into love, love, love CHORUS (x3)

THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory I will see his face,
There I’ll serve my King forever, in that holy place.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

CLOSING SONG       YOU NEVER LET GO

Even though I walk through the valley Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life I won't turn back I know You are near

CHORUS: And I will fear no evil—For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear—Whom then shall I fear
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—in ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes We'll live to know You here on the earth CHORUS

I can see a light That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You—Still I will praise You

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—in ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

The congregation now proceeds to the Columbarium.
SALUTATION

Pastor    The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Pastor    Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People    It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor    The Word of the Lord.
People    Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE    Pastor Larson

BENEDICTION

Pastor    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.

People    Amen.

BENEDICTION HYMN    GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.
So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

Pastor    Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People    Thanks be to God!
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT Diana Gaide
AGAPE Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00 Norm Finfrock
10:30 Roger Gaide

LECTOR 8:00 Annette Wolfer
10:30 Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00 Ann Ranisate
10:30 Cody Urbach

USHERS 8:00 Barry Kratzer, Members of the Congregation
10:30 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30 Denise Lucero

ALTAR GUILD Phyllis McConnell, Tricia McCulley, Sharon Seible, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS Clyde and Ruth Wiggins, in loving memory of Chris, Kathy, and Louis

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