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.
*PREPARATION*

PRELUDES  “A Hymn of Glory Let Me Sing”  David Schack  
 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”  Paul Manz

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

OPENING SENTENCES  Psalm 47:5; Matthew 28:19–20; John 14:18

Pastor:  God has gone up with a shout, 
People:  the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Pastor:  Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
People:  teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
Pastor:  And behold, I am with you always,
People:  to the end of the age.
Pastor:  I will not leave you as orphans;
People:  I will come to you.

HYMN  “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns”  LSB 532

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.
KYRIE (spoken)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE  “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise”   LSB 946

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.
VERSE Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

Pastor: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will die no more; death has no more dominion over Him. Alleluia! I am with you always, even to the close of the age.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels” LSB 491

SERMON “Authority” Pastor John Larson
Text: Matthew 28:16-20

NICENE CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, on this day we give You thanks and praise for the completed
work You sent Your Son to accomplish in the world, taking on our human
flesh to take away the sins of the world. Now in that same flesh He ascends
to You. We thank You that He still preaches, teaches, heals, and feeds us
through His apostolic ministers in Your Holy Church. Keep us in that joyful
faith all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Grant that all pastors in Your Church be ever mindful that they serve not on
their own authority but in the stead and by the command of the risen and
ascended Lord Jesus Christ. Give them joy in their calling and confidence,
especially in challenging or evil times. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** By Your Spirit grant that our Lord Jesus bring His Word and assurance of
deliverance, health, and healing to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness
or adversity, *especially . . .*. Deliver, O Lord, especially those who are
most helpless and those to whom death draws near. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** *[Additional intersessions may be added here . . .]*. Strengthen them with Your
Spirit and keep them firm in their faith. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Hear the joyful cheers of all who have gone before us and now praise You
before Your heavenly throne, both all the saints through the ages and
especially our loved ones who now dwell in Your nearer presence and rest
from their labors. *[Silence for remembrance]* Keep us in fellowship with all
Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom.
Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be
with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”  
James Melby
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.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having ascended to His throne in heaven, now orders and rules all things for the benefit of the Church and His continued ministry of salvation for all. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
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.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Three)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”  
“In Christ There Is No East or West”  
“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”  

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN  
“Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious”

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

The congregation now proceeds to the Columbarium.

Memorial Day Observance
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

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<td>ORGAN ASSISTANT</td>
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<td>FLOWERS</td>
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