

Order of Service
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension
May 17, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

Opening Hymn: ELH 389 vs. 1, 7

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs through-out the world shall ring
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before un-trod,
Ascended to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Invocation

P: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, our hearts in true devotion bow,

C: Your Spirit send with grace divine, and let your truth within us shine.

P: Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!

C: To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise throughout eternity! Amen.

P: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth.

Confession and Absolution

P: We are in the presence of the true and living God, who has shown great mercy to us. Let us come to Him in repentance and faith, and be assured of His love for us in Christ.

C: Holy God, our Maker and Judge, we confess that we are sinful. Daily we turn from your will and follow our evil desires; we do not love you and each other as we should. We have disobeyed you and deserve to be punished now and forever. But we are sorry for our sins and, trusting in Jesus, we pray: Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P: God, our loving heavenly Father, sent His Son to die for your sins. You are forgiven. God will strengthen you to love Him and to live according to His good will. Amen.

Prayer for the Day

P: Almighty God, grant that as we believe your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, that we may also in heart and mind ascend that we may continually live with Him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 1: 1-14 (read responsively)

(Jesus is Taken Up into Heaven)

P: ¹ I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. ⁴ Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them,

C: “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

P: ⁶ So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority.

C: ⁸ But 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.”**

P: ⁹ After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a

cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them.

C: ¹¹ They **said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”**

P: ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

C: ¹⁴ All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (EHV)

Ascension Day Psalm 8

P: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Set this glory of yours above the heavens. Whenever I look up at your heavens, the works of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place—

C: What is man that you remember him, the son of man that you pay attention to him!

P: Nevertheless, you make him suffer need, apart from God for a while, but you crown him with glory and honor.

C: You make him the ruler over the works of your hands.
You put everything under his feet. (EHV)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24: 44-53 (Jesus Ascends into Heaven)

⁴⁴ He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen. (EHV)

The Confession of Faith — Explanation of Second Article:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Children’s Sermonette

Sermon Hymn: ELH 388 vs. 1, 2, 4

“Hail the Day the Sees Him Rise”

Hail the day that sees Him rise
To His throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,
Re-ascends His native heav’n.

See, the heav’n its Lord receives,
Yet He loves the earth He leaves;
Though returning to His throne,
Still He calls mankind His own.

See, He lifts His hands above;
See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His Church below.

Sermon: Ephesians 1:17-23

“God’s power will lift us up!”

¹⁷ I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹ and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. ²⁰ It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² God also

placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. ²³ The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (EHV)

Congregational Response: ELH 392 vs. 1, 2

“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

On Christ’s ascension I now build

The hope of mine ascension;
This hope alone has ever stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there full well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.

Since He returned to claim His throne,
Great gifts for men obtaining,
My heart shall rest in Him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my Treasure went before,
There all my thoughts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.

Offering Prayer

O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Thine ascension,
That I may ever walk with Thee, Adorning Thy redemption;
And then, when all my days shall cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace In answer to my pleading. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, as we look to you we bring our prayers to your throne of grace, asking that you will hear us and grant that which is best for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

P: We pray for people in our nation that you look on them in love. Bless us with all things needful for our lives that we may enjoy this place which is now our home and be spared from further diseases. Grant that your truth may be proclaimed throughout our land and that people repent of their sins and be saved.

C: Lord, have mercy our nation.

P: We pray for the church, which is our spiritual home. Bless the leaders and the people with a vision of faith and a full measure of faithfulness that we may joyfully fulfill our duties to you and others in this world as we await your coming again in glory.

C: Lord, have mercy on our congregation.

P: We pray that we would be Ascension-minded disciples, sharing the good news of your complete victory over sin, death and the devil, and pointing people to the way in which you have gone.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

P: We pray for those with special requests. We remember the people with coronavirus and all who are caring for those who are sick, Bless the shut-ins, people in economic distress and those we know who need our prayer.

C: Lord, have mercy on them.

Special intercessions and prayers

P: Finally, Lord Jesus, we thank you for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth, as their souls rejoice in your eternal presence. Inspire us by their witness to remain faithful as we serve you in love all of our days on earth.

C: Lord, we thank you for your mercy. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: (sung) Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH 602 vs. 1, 2

(As we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom on Memorial Day and *as we see the great needs of our country during this pandemic, we sing: "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.

For her our prayer shall rise 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!