

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 24, 2020

9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Kurt Christenson, *pastor*

Joe DeMers, *piano*

Paul Engel & Jan Neuhaus, *singers*

Sylvia Starbird, *lector*

PRELUDE

God of Our Fathers

George W. Warren

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



- 1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
- 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
- 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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GATHERING DIALOGUE FOR ASCENSION DAY

A. Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

C. The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia!

A. Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C. Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

A. The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand."

C. The Lord is high above all nations; his glory above the heavens!

A. He came forth from the Father, and has come into the world.

C. Again he leaves the world and goes to the Father.

A. Alleluia! He ascends to the Father, to my God and your God.

C. He will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After 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. While 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,

suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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: Psalm 47

refrain:

God has gone up with a shout; sing praises to God, sing praises!

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

For the Lord Most High is to be feared:

a great king over all the earth,
who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;
who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.

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

God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.

The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has

made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia.* Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the end of the age. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 28:19, 20)**

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

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

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

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He

will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

INVITATION INTO THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Rev. J. Lee Precup, Chaplain USN Ret.

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

P. May almighty God bless you with the knowledge that his only Son has ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you.

C. Amen.

P. May you be lifted up and guided by Christ's intercession at God's right hand.

C. Amen.

P. At Christ's promised return, may you be found blameless and welcomed into the joys of God's eternal kingdom.

C. Amen.

P. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

A. Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

*Gathering and prayers by The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

POSTLUDE

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

John B. Dykes