



The Ascension of Our Lord

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May 5, 2016

Seminary Chapel

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 171, stanzas 1-4

Setting by John Ferguson

Stand to sing the hymn

DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

M: Christ is arisen!

C: He is risen indeed!

M: God raised Christ 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 name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

C: **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.**

M: God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

C: **and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

M: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

C: **When Christ, who is our life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory.**

M: 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.

C: **The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God.**

M: After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

C: **Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**

SONG OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast
Setting by Peter Hallock

The congregation sings the refrain.

Everyone:

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

The choir sings the verses of the song.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood sets us free to be people of God. Refrain.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Refrain.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia! Refrain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:21-31

The Lord displays high mighty power on behalf of his people.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 47

Setting by Nicholas Palmer

The choir sings the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.

Refrain

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, to shouts of joy!

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, to shouts of joy!

The choir sings the verses of the psalm.

All people, clap your hands, cry out to God with joy!
For the Lord, Most High, we revere, great King over all the earth.

Refrain.

Our God goes up with shouts of joy to trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing out praise; sing praise to our King, sing praise.

Refrain.

God is the King of all, sing praise with all your skill.
God is the ruler of all the lands, God reigns upon the throne.

Refrain.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 19:11-16

The King of kings and Lord of lords.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand for the reading of the Gospel

VERSE OF THE DAY

Setting by Robert Hobby

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53
The ascension of Jesus.

Following the Gospel:

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Up through Endless Ranks of Angels
CW 172
Setting by Henry Gerike

SERMON

Luke 24:44-53

WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS PICTURE?

No parts. Parts is parts.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise
CW 175

Worshippers are encouraged to sing the hymn in harmony.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Stand

M: Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.

Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that we may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

C: **As the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to silence our witness to the truth, grant us courage to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord.**

M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us, his kingdom of priests, to pray for others.

C: **Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:**

M: to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed grant relief;
to the dying and those who mourn bring comfort;
to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed send your help;
to the elderly, give joy for living life to the full;
to the young send patience to wait for the fuller life to come;

C: **Bestow your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.**

M: Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

C: **Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.**

M: Come with your guidance, O Lord, and pour out your blessings on all who gather here to prepare and prepare others for pastoral ministry. Open our minds and hearts and fill us with your grace and power. Let these days spent together in worship, study, and fellowship enrich us so that our work and ministry may come to adorn your gospel for all people.

C: **Lead us to praise you as we joyfully wait for your return.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he ever stands for us as our own high priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end.

C: **Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us.**

M: To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠00007
give you peace.

C: Amen.

Remain standing for the hymn and recession of the Paschal Candle

HYMN

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Then, throned with you forever, we
Shall praise your name eternally.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

The Recession of the Paschal Candle

At the Festival of the Ascension the Paschal Candle is carried from the chancel to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with his Church in bodily form but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory. The recession of the Paschal Candle does not imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for he promised, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). Wherever his Word and Sacraments are, there Jesus is truly present. The recession of the Paschal candle helps us to remember that Jesus does not himself carry the gospel in Word and Sacraments to the world, but has appointed us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:20). With Jesus' power and presence, we are indeed witnesses of grace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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