

Prelude
Yvonne Bryce

Taps Echo
William Suit, James Wuensche

Worship Focus

Alleluia! Sing To Jesus (LSB-821)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, Heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Invocation

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

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: Who made heaven and earth.
Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
People: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Please take a moment of silence to reflect on
your sinfulness and your need for a Savior*

Words of Absolution

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,
People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the 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.

The Kyrie

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!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

The Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: We join together in prayer.
All: Lord Jesus, You have ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father in glory and power.

We pray that You so rule the world that the Holy Christian Church will fulfill its mission to make disciples of all nations; and that on the Last Day, You will bring all believers of all nations and all times together to celebrate Your mercy and grace in the Kingdom of Heaven. We pray this In Your mighty Name, Amen!

The Scripture Lessons

Acts 1:4-11

⁴ 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. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "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."

Please Rise For The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ 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."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: 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 at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (LSB-493)

A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with his faithful foll'wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty,
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia, Alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say;
"This is his glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"You see Him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia, alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty."
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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!

Today's Message

By Pastor Dave Bolte

*You are welcome to use the sermon worksheet on the insert.
A printed copy of the sermon is available at the information center.
Past sermons are available online at www.trinitylcs.org*

Special Music

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. 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.

Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen!**

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels (LSB-491)

Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To his heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon his faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.

Death destroying, life restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!

To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as you were welcomed,
To an endless Easter tide.

Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

***God the Father has given you God the Holy Spirit to make you
a Biblically-literate, Doctrinally-sound, Mission-minded, and
Passionately-engaged disciple of God the Son Jesus Christ!***

Organ: Yvonne Bryce

Trumpet: William Suit, James Wuensche

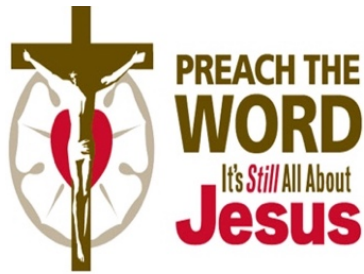
Elder: Dan Dodson

Hymns used with permission LSBHymnLicense.net #100010917 • THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

Morning Traditional Service

7:30am

May 24, 2020



Ascension of our Lord

Acts 1:4-11 Luke 24:44-53

May 24, 2020

Pastor Dave Bolte

The Ascension is the last time Jesus was visibly with his disciples. After giving them the Great Commission, Jesus physically leaves the earth. It was a grand miracle in which gravity was suspended, and Jesus disappeared into a cloud. The Ascension signaled that the Resurrection appearances of Christ will end, and that we should not expect to see Him again until everyone sees Him at the same time on the Last Day. The Ascension was witnessed by disciples and by angels.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus “ascended into heaven and sits at the *right hand of God* the Father Almighty.” The term *right hand of God* is not a physical location but a figure of speech that means that Jesus is all powerful.

The *right hand of God* is a symbolic way of saying that Jesus is the **ruler of all things** and **He is always with His People**. Jesus at the *right hand of God* comforts and encourages us; it gives us hope and peace as we face daily life.

The Ascension teaches us that Jesus is in control of all things. The Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ works through the **events of history – and the events in our own lives FOR GOOD**. He works through all the **brokenness**, the **unexplainable**, the **horrible** and the **tragic**. He *works through it all for good: for the benefit of His Church and for the salvation of all people*. **History** is the story of God at work for the benefit of His Church and the salvation of all people. Your **life story** is God at work in your life!

The Bible doesn't teach us why things happen, other than we live in a sinful broken world. The promise is that the Risen Lord Jesus Christ *works through it all for benefit of His Church and the salvation of all people.* That's the **world view** we are to have based on Scripture: ***The Risen and Ascended Christ works through it all for benefit of His Church.***

In the Ascension, we learn that Jesus is all powerful, in all places, and knows all things; He is **Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient.** Here is how the Book of Ephesians teaches it to us:

Christ was raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God 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 one to come. God the Father put all things under Christ's feet; He is over all things and is the Head of the Church. Paraphrase Ephesians 1:21-23

Even if we do not understand how, God has promised to work all things for good... for His church ... and for you as an individual believer. That's is what God's Word teaches us, so we believe it. We walk by faith, and not by sight.

That even includes this **pandemic** ... and however it affects you. The disruption has affected us in many ways --- for some, it is an inconvenience, for others, it changes the direction of your life. Either way, **be confident** that the Christ the Risen and Ascended Lord is at work for your good – that's His promise to you!

The Ascension of Jesus Christ to the Right Hand of God means that He is involved in your life -- He knows and He cares. **The world around you and the events in your life are not spinning out of control!** No matter how it feels; no matter how it looks, God's promise to you in the Ascension is that God will **not** let your life spin out of control!

- That's Christ's promise to you in the Ascension;
- That's how you can make sense out of your own problems, pain and stress in your life

- That's how we can make sense out of this broken, evil, and corrupt world that we live in

The world around you and the events in your life are not spinning out of control! They are firmly in the hands of the Risen and Ascended Lord!

The first thing that we learn in the Ascension is a **worldview**: that **the Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, is present and watching over you and is at work for good in the events and the details of your life!**

A second thing that the Ascension of Jesus Christ teaches us is that He will return on the last day. As Jesus was ascending into Heaven, the angels told the disciples:

"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." Acts 1

The Return of Christ on the Last Day will be like a **“reverse Ascension!”** The Bible teaches us that Jesus will return to the earth on the Last Day; and that every eye will see him.

Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. Revelation 1:7

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Hebrews 9:28

When Jesus returns, you'll see it. You won't miss it;
NO ONE WILL BE “LEFT BEHIND”!

Here is how we confess it to the world in the Nicene Creed:

(Jesus) “ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.”
Nicene Creed

On the Last Day when Jesus returns, history as we know it will end. Suddenly and unexpectedly, the sky will rip open and you will see Jesus in full glory, power, majesty and might; with all the holy angels with him.

- It will be a *terrible judgment day for the unbelievers*, and they will be thrown into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
- And it will be the *long awaited Homecoming Day for believers*, for the baptized disciples who trust in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for salvation. On the Last Day, Jesus will take you to your heavenly home, and reunite you to your loved ones who have died in the faith.

The only way to be prepared for the return of Christ on the Last Day is to repent of your sins and trust in Christ for forgiveness. Jesus taught us to “watch and pray”; we are to be alert and understand the Signs of the End that we see every day. This pandemic is an example of that. The Last Day is coming and it is coming soon. The only way to be prepared is to renounce sin and trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins!

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is an important event in the work of Christ, in the history of His Church, and in your life as an individual believer.

The Ascension of Jesus Christ teaches us to frame our lives around two significant truths:

- The **past event** of the Ascension means that Jesus is making all things work for good for you – He blesses you with all good things, and He is even at work in your problems, pain and stress. Jesus is the King who knows you and loves you; and He is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere.
- The **future promise** in the Ascension is that Jesus will return, suddenly and unexpectedly, on the Last Day, to take you home to His eternal Kingdom in Heaven!

Frame your life around these two truths! Like bookends, let these two truths guide you through life. Let the Ascension of Jesus Christ empower you to live boldly as a disciple of Jesus Christ! **AMEN!**