

Easter 7/Ascension – May 24, 2020

Grace Lutheran Church – Yorba Linda, CA



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace  
in Yorba Linda, California, the land of gracious living*

Accompanists – David and Alexis Stansfield / Video production – Eric Erickson

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## The Ascension of our Lord

### Welcome and Invitation of Worship

- L. The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

### The Ascension

May 24, 2020

*40 days after Easter,  
Jesus ascended into  
heaven assuring us His  
work for us is  
victorious and fulfilled  
for us. May the  
uplifted hands of our  
Ascended Lord bless  
you today.*

Text:

*William C. Dix, 1837–  
98, abr., alt.*

### OPENING HYMN

### Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (#169)

**1 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.”**

**2 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.**

**3 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”?**

[L] In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.  
[C] Amen.

**RESPONSIVE READING** (*Selected from Psalm 47 & 68*)

L. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

**C: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King.**

L. For God is the King of all the earth;

**C: Sing to him a psalm of praise.**

L: When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train.

**C: Praise to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.**

L: For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a song of praise.

**C: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

L: Clap your hands all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

**C: How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!**

L: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

*On May 25, 735  
AD, Ascension Day,  
the English  
Venerable Bede  
(the teacher who  
divided history into  
AD and BC) finished  
his translation of  
the Gospel of John  
into Old English.  
Then, on that day  
of he died. From his  
deathbed, he spoke  
the words that  
have become the  
Prayer of the Day  
on Ascension, a  
prayer that sets the  
tone for the day,  
beginning with a  
note of triumph  
and ending with a  
supplication for the  
Spirit and His work.*



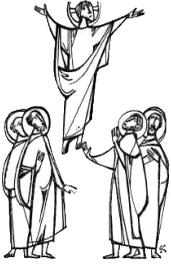
**C:**      ♪ **Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,  
                 Enthroned in worlds above,  
                 Crown Him the King to whom is given  
                 The wondrous name of Love.  
                 Crown Him with many crowns  
                 As thrones before Him fall;  
                 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
                 For He is King of all.**      (Hymn #341 v. 4)

**Prayer of the Day**

L. Lord Jesus, King of Glory, after you rose from the dead, 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 you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen.** (*spoken*)

## God's Word



*Luke records the account of the Ascension which leaves the disciples with joy and a mission.*

### First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11 (p.1077)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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.”

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

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>“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.”

### Verse of the Day:

“Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:20b)

## The Ascension Gospel: Luke 24:44-53



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.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.<sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.”

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

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise be to you O Christ!**



*The text for this hymn also comes from The Venerable Bede, 673–735. See the note on the prayer of the day.*

**Hymn of the Day**                      A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (CW:#171:1-2,5-6)

**1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2 The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And with his followers they see Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5 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!**

**6 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!**

## Sermon based on 1 Peter 5:6-11

### Easter Changes Everything

From sinking  
down to

Standing firm

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

## 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.**

*God loves a  
cheerful giver.*

*Automatic giving  
from your bank  
account is  
available. Forms  
for signing up are  
at the usher desk.*

## OFFERING

## LITANY FOR ASCENSION

L: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father in majesty, power and glory and now rule as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords:

**C: Rule over everything for the good of your church.**

L: Ascended Prophet, that we may continue to proclaim the precious message of the gospel in this place and throughout the world:

**C: Rule over everything for the good of your church.**

L: Ascended Priest, represent us before our Father as his own dear children and heirs. That we might be protected from Satan's accusations and receive the Father's blessing in our everyday life:

**C: Rule over everything for the good of your church.**

L: Ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interests of your Church, and that those suffering during this pandemic, might find healing in your love:

**C: Rule over everything for the good of your church.**

L: Ascended Lord and Savior, that our members who graduate this spring main remain close to you and serve you, that teachers and students might find rest this summer, and that we all remain faithful to your Word and Sacraments during this time of year when good weather and stay at home restrictions may distract us:

**C: Rule over everything for the good of your church.**

L: *Other petitions may follow...* As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

**C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## BLESSING

- [L] 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 (+) give you peace.
- [C] Amen. (*spoken*)

## CLOSING SONG

### From All that Dwell below the Skies (#250)



- 1 From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry  
tongue.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- 2 Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set  
no more.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

