

A Service of Morning Prayer
May 29, 2022
Ascension of the Lord



Jesus Ascending to Heaven

by John Singleton Copley 1738–1815 (Wikimedia)

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. *Matthew 28.19, 20*

CP 115 Awake O Sleeper Rise From Death

1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
 and Christ shall give you light;
 so learn his love – its length and breadth,
 its fullness, depth, and height.

2 To us on earth, he came to bring
 from sin and fear release,
 to give the Spirit's unity,
 the very bond of peace.

3 There is one body and one hope,
 one Spirit and one call
 one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
 one Father of us all.

4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
 who died that he might save;
 with kind and gentle hearts forgive
 as God in Christ forgave.

5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
 and conquered in the strife.
 Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
 and Christ shall give you life.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.

And also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 47 *Refrain:* God has gone up with a shout.

47:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

47:3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

47:4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

47:5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

47:6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

47:7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

47:8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

47:9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

Reading from Acts 1:1-11

1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning

1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

1:3 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.

1:4 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;

1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

1:8 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."

1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him

out of their sight.

1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

1:11 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."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CP 40 O Spirit of the Living God

1 O Spirit of the living God,
 in all the fullness of thy grace,
 wherever human foot hath trod,
 descend on our rebellious race.

2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love
 to preach the reconciling word;
 give power and unction from above,
 whene'er the joyful sound is heard.

3 Be darkness at thy coming light;
 confusion, order in thy path;
 souls without strength inspire with might,
 bid mercy triumph over wrath.

4 O Spirit of the Lord, prepare
 all the round earth its God to meet;
 breathe thou abroad like morning air,
 till hearts of stone begin to beat.

5 Baptize the nations; far and nigh
 the triumph of the cross record;
 the name of Jesus glorify,
 till every kindred call him Lord.

A Reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason

1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

1:17 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,

1:18 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,

1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

1:20 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,

1:21 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.

1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CP 569 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

1 Come, my Way, my Truth my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

3 Come, my joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:44-53

24:44 Then he said to 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."

24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

24:46 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,

24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

24:49 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."

24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

24:51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

24:52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;

24:53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Heather Liddell

CCLI 6635756 The Love Of The Father

1 Lift up your voices and lift up your praise
Join with the heavens declaring
The wonders of His faithfulness
Forever.

2 Sing of the victory the hope of the world
The Saviour has risen
The Spirit has come to bring us into love
Forever.

Chorus

***Oh we are the people of God
With the freedom of hope in our hearts
How great is the love of the Father***

3 Lifted from darkness and into the light
The sons and the daughters are loved at a
price
Our God has made us His
Forever.

Bridge

This is the song of the redeemed
The ransomed and the free
Given life at such a price
This is love this is love
And when the Father calls us home
And we see Him on the throne
Hear the voices sing as one
This is love this is love

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

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

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

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Lesley Lambert

Loving Father, we thank You for the blessing of this day and for the opportunity to come together to offer prayer and praise. Hear us as we make our humble supplications before You, trusting that You will hear us and grant the desires of our hearts as is best for us and for those for whom we pray. All this we do through the love of Your risen son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We pray today for a world where acts of violence and aggressive extremism threaten the lives and well-being of so many, and we commend to Your care the souls of the 14 little children who went to school to be met with gunshots and death in a place where they should have felt safe and protected. The people of Ukraine are in our hearts and prayers and also those countries who seek to support those fleeing their homeland, often leaving behind, to an uncertain future, their loved ones. We also pray today for the Uighur community in China and all communities who are persecuted for their beliefs, as we know it is Your wish that all people are equally precious and welcome in the world You created for us.

We pray for all those who are addicted and those who are afflicted in mind, body or spirit, for the lonely, the unemployed, the hungry and the homeless and for those who care for them in the home, the hospital or the community support programs. We remember today most especially those for whom our prayers have been requested today: Sandra, Merle, Mona, Lois Ward, Mary, Irene, Kathryn, Helen, Jenifer, Judy, Tony and Mary Jean, Luisa, Lois Davis, Miranda, Iain, Bill and Diane, Maxime, Geraldine, Florence, Joan, Shirley and Cyril, Mark and Blake, Danny and Jane, Lisa, Marijka, Chrissie, Joyce and Brad. We ask You to comfort them and keep them close to You throughout the day and as they rest at night.

In our prayers for Your holy church today we pray for the Church of S. India; The Dioces of Niagara, the Rt. Rev. Susan Bell, Bishop; Emmanuel, Gibbons and St. Mary Redwater, Anthony Kwaw, Rector; The Buye Diocese, Gitobe Parish, Joseph Hakizimana, Rector, and for the Montana First Nation. As always, we ask Your blessing on our Bishop, Steven, and on our beloved parish home of St. Peter's with our ministry, Heather and Alison, and our many friends here, old and new. We ask that everyone who enters our doors, or engages with us through on-line services, will feel welcome, safe and filled with Your presence.

Hear us as we pray, O Lord, and allow us to feel Your presence as we go about our day. May we seek to further Your kingdom on this earth in every way we can, seeking only to please You in everything we do. Forgive us in our failures and encourage us to strive, every day of our lives, to try to live as we have been taught by Your son, our dear Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
 your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
 that he might rule over all things as Lord.
 Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
 and in the bond of his peace,
 and bring the whole of creation
 to worship at his feet,
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 517 O God Your Constant Care And Love

1 O God, your constant care and love
 are shed upon us from above
 throughout our lives, in every stage,
 from infancy to later age.

3 All time is yours, O Lord, to give;
 may we, in all the years we live,
 find every day of life is new,
 a celebration, Lord, with you.

2 We thank you, Lord, for dreams of youth,
 for wisdom leading on to truth,
 for memories gathered through the years,
 and faith that grows from joys and tears.

4 Let not the passing of the years
 rob us of joy, nor cause us fears;
 and give us faith, O Lord, that we
 may live with you eternally.

The Dismissal

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with
 you always, to the close of the age. *Matthew 28.19, 20*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory
 for ever and ever, Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.