

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Ascension of the Lord**



The Ascension

A 1775 painting by American John Singleton Copley 1738-1815
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Welcome:

CP 246 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

1 Hail, thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Saviour!
Thou hast borne our sin and shame;
by thy merit we find favour:
life is given through thy name.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on thee were laid:
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven,
peace is made 'twixt us and God.

3 Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
Worship, honor, power, and blessing
thou art worthy to receive;
highest praises, without ceasing,
right it is for us to give.

Gathering: 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.

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.**

Trisagion: Holy God,
 Holy and mighty,
 Holy and immortal one,
 Have mercy on us. (3x)

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.
 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.

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.

CP 245 O Lord Most High, Eternal King

1 O Lord most high, eternal king,
by thee redeemed thy praise we sing,
The bonds of death are burst by thee,
and grace has won the victory.

3 Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,
as thou wilt be our great reward;
let all our glory be in thee
both now and through eternity.

2 Ascending to the sapphire throne,
thou claim'st the kingdom as thine own;
and angels wonder when they see
how changed is our humanity.

4 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to thee let earth accord,
who art, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit, one.
Alleluia!

Meditation: – Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 6190356 Our God's Alive

1 Come on everyone see what He has done
He has lifted us He has overcome
The power of the grave
And the sin that once enslaved
Couldn't hold Him in the ground
Couldn't keep Him down

2 Reigning on His throne drawing ever close
Giving us this hope He'll never let us go
Oh death has been defeated
Jesus Christ Redeemer
Conquered hell and freed us
Forever we are saved

Bridge

Chorus
Rise with a shout cry out our God's alive
Rise holy fire burn bright burn bright
Rise with a shout cry out for freedom
Rise church arise our God's alive

He alone can save us
He will not forsake us
He remains forever
Our Savior
See Him reign in power
Stronger than our failures
Always and forever
Our Savior

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.**

Healing Litany:

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen..... Tony and Mary Jean.....
 Bill..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa.....
 Marijke..... Chrissie..... Diane..... Janelle..... Roald..... Luci..... Barry W.;

Let us offer our prayers for God's healing, saying, Hear and have mercy.

Hear and have mercy

Blessed Jesus, your Holy name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life

Hear and have mercy

Grant us your grace to heal those who are sick. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Befriend all who are anxious, lonely, despondent, or afraid. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Restore those with mental illness to clarity of mind and hopefulness of heart.
We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Give rest to the weary and hold the dying in your loving arms. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Help us to prepare for death with confident expectation of Easter joy. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Give your wisdom and compassion to health care workers, that they may minister to the sick and dying with knowledge, skill, and kindness. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Uphold those who keep watch over the sick. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Hear and have mercy.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Hear and have mercy

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Hear and have mercy

Compassionate God, you so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our infirmities and afflictions. Through acts of healing, he revealed you as the true source of health and salvation. For the sake of your Christ who suffered and died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of your people. Have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the fulness of your eternal life. 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.

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 570 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
 fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 let us each, your love possessing,
 triumph in redeeming grace;
 O refresh us, O refresh us,
 travelling through the wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
 for the gospel's joyful sound;
 may the fruits of your salvation
 in our hearts and lives abound,
 may your presence, may your presence,
 with us evermore be found.

The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord, giving thanks for his living word.
Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
 of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.