

May 29 & June 1, 2025
Ascension



He Reigns Over Everything for the Benefit of His Church

When the Church gathers, it regularly remembers Christ's ascension. The words "He ascended into heaven" are found in the three ecumenical creeds Christians use to confess their faith. In addition, the Church sets aside a day each year to focus on Christ's ascension. This is for good reason. Jesus' ascension marked the fact that his work was complete, in one sense. Never again will a sacrifice for sins need to be made. However, Jesus' ascension also marks that, in another sense, his work is just beginning. Through the Church, Jesus now proclaims forgiveness of sins throughout the world.

The Church consists of people like us who are often weak and timid witnesses for Christ. So, Jesus promised to send us his Spirit to give us power from heaven, that we might take the gospel to the ends of the earth. More, he ascended into heaven and sat down on the throne of God. He lives and reigns over everything for the benefit of his Church.



Opening Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing CW²¹ 472:1–4



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and
 4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 gaze up - on the sky?” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals of the sky.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
 and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -
 “This is the Sav - ior,” thus they say. “This is his
 “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 glo - rious tri - umph day.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 in great maj - es - ty.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

A DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

M: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

C: but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

M: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

C: After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3

M: Dear friends, let us approach our God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our ascended Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: By nature we are dead in our transgressions and sins, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.

Eph 2:1 adapted

The acts of our sinful flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and disobedience; putting myself and things above God; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, and the like. Lord forgive me for my sins.

Gal 2:1-3 adapted

M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy!

C: Let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 47:5-6

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing CW²¹ 472:5-6



5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our
6 O ris-en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to
fu-ture great re-ward. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
you let earth ac-cord. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Then, throned with you for-ev-er, we shall praise your
You are, while end-less a-ges run, with Fa-ther
name e-ter-nal-ly. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
and with Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus ascends to rule over all things as his Church serves as his witnesses.

¹The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. ⁴ Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. 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.”

⁹ After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (EHV)



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47 (Red Hymnal)

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Clap your hands, all you nations;*
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,*
the great King over all the earth!

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

Refrain

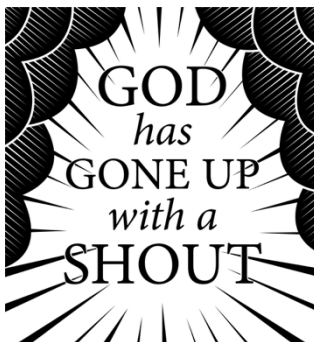
God has ascended amid shouts of joy,*
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

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

For God is the King of all the earth;*
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain



Stand

Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

Before he ascends, Jesus promises to send the disciples power from on high to carry out the mission of the Church.

⁴⁴ *Jesus said to his disciples*, “These are my words that I spoke to 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 to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: 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 from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen. (EHV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be Seated

Children's Devotion

Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.

Hymn of the Day

Crown Him With Many Crowns CW²¹ 511



- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave
- 4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, en - throned in worlds a - bove;



hark how the heav'n-ly an-them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.
crown him the King to whom is giv'n the won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
Crown him with man - y crowns as thrones be - fore him fall;



and hail him as thy match-less King thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down-ward bends his won-d'ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died e - ter - nal life to bring and lives that death may die.
crown him, ye kings, with man - y crowns for he is King of all.

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, abr., alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Revelation 19:11-16

St. John sees the ascended Lord as a warrior riding on a white horse fighting against all those who oppose Christ's gospel and his Church.

¹ I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war in righteousness. ¹² His eyes are like blazing flames, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him, which no one knows except he himself. ¹³ He is also clothed in a garment that had been dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies in heaven, which were clothed with white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will shepherd them with an iron staff. He himself is going to trample the winepress of the fierce anger of the Almighty God. ¹⁶ On his garment and on his thigh this name is written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (EHV)

Stand

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.**

Prayer of the Church for Ascension

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 she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

C: As the devil, the world, and our sinful nature 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;
to husbands and wives and their families,
to single parents who raise their children alone grant wisdom and strength.

C: Pour out 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: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here 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: As we contemplate the difficult days in the life of the church, hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

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

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.



Hymn of the Day

Christ Begins CW²¹ 385



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
 2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.
 3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.
 4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.



Wa - ter runs and all heav - en
 Yet six jars are filled with the
 Clothes like light - ning white, heav - en
 Watch the clos - ing clouds hide him



o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
 fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?
 o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
 from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

Refrain



Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a



light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my



God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Text: Luke Thompson, b. 1981

Tune: Luke Thompson, b. 1981; Kent Reeder, b. 1986

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