



*And when he had  
said these things...*

HE WAS LIFTED UP

*and a cloud took  
him out of their sight.*

A C T S 1 : 9 , E S V

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*Our mission is to glorify God, grow in Christ, and share God's love and forgiveness.*

EVENING PRAYER FOR ASCENSION DAY  
MAY 21, 2020

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** the light no darkness can overcome.  
**P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**C** and they day is almost over.  
**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** and illuminate Your Church.

### Hymn

#### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Faire are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight  
Bright the sparkling stars on high  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise adoration  
Now and forevermore be thine!

### Responsive Introit (Psalm 110:1, 4-5; Psalm 47:5)

- P** God has gone up with a shout,  
**C** the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
**P** The LORD says to my LORD: "Sit at my right hand,  
**C** until I make your enemies your footstool."  
**P** The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,  
**C** "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."  
**P** The Lord is at your right hand;

**C** he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

**C** 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.

**P** God has gone up with a shout,

**C** the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray: Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heaven, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### First Reading

*Acts 1:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> And while staying<sup>[a]</sup> with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

### Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love<sup>[a]</sup> toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### Responsive Gradual

**P** Christ has risen from the dead.

**C** God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,

**P** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**C** he has put all things under his feet.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 24:44-53*

<sup>44</sup> 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for<sup>[a]</sup> the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

## Prayer

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice;

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** 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:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our Presiding Pastor, Dr. Curtis Leins, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For President Trump, Governor Newsom, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the hurting and suffering in our midst, for the weak and the marginalized, the unemployed and the underemployed, and for a swift end to this pandemic and the adversities that it has caused, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Alleluia.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for individual prayer)*

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** **To You, O Lord.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

*All*        **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 and Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** **Amen.**

**Closing Song:**

**HOW GREAT THOU ART**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

**Refrain**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

**Refrain**

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing

Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

**Refrain**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

**Refrain**