



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

May 13, 2018
Ascension Sunday



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

Today is Ascension Sunday, when we remember and celebrate that our Savior was taken up into heaven to rule at the Father's right hand until He comes again in the same way that the disciples saw Him go into heaven.

What difference should Christ's ascension make in our lives? It means that in heaven there is One who, knowing firsthand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers. The ascension is a witness and guarantee of our own bodily resurrection as well as an invitation for us to set our hearts and minds "on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" to rule over all things in heaven and throughout the universe (Colossians 3:1-2). – *The Worship Sourcebook*

Let us then, with hearts of thanksgiving, worship our resurrected and ascended Lord together!

THE GLORY OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

ORGAN AND BRASS PRELUDE:

Festive Fanfare on "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" Bruce Stevenson

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "Blessed Assurance". arr. Duane Funderburk

A WORD ON WORSHIP George W. Robertson

CHORAL INTROIT: "Praise the Everlasting King!" arr. Duane Funderburk

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Calvin Ellis, Associate Director of Music

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Hebrews 4:14, 16. Michael G. Stokke

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.**

✦HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 289 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

✦INVOCATION (*Please lift hands*)

✦PSALTER LESSON: Select Verses from Psalm 68 Betty Eubank (8:15)
Don Batchelor (11:00)

You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train
and receiving gifts among men,

**even among the rebellious,
that the Lord God may dwell there.**

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens;
the God who is our salvation

**Our God is a God of salvation,
and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.**

Bless God in the great congregation,
the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!

**Summon your power, O God,
the power, O God, by which you have worked for us.**

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens

**Awesome is God from his sanctuary;
he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.**

✦DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GRACE OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, our heavenly Father,
You raised Jesus from death to life and crowned Him Lord of all.
Yet, we confess that we regularly enthrone ourselves as king.
Forgive our rebel hearts and treasonous ways,
for we are those who regularly set our minds on earthly things
instead of things above where Christ is.
May Your Spirit lead us again to boast in the cross
so that we might possess a sincere, pure,
and undistracted devotion to our Lord!
For we pray in the name of the One
who possesses all authority in heaven and on earth,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON I John 4:9-10

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "And Can It Be"arr. Mark Hayes

Amazing Love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!
And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God should'st die for me!
He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me.
Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray: I woke the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed, I followed Thee!
No condemnation now I dread: Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me!
Amazing love, amazing love! How can it be?

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING David A. Bowen

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

THE WORD OF OUR ASCENDED LORD

A PRAYER FOR OUR 2018 FELLOWS CLASS (8:15)

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God" Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

stanza 1: Mary Grace Walters

stanzas 2-3: Congregation stands and sings

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

2. Ho-ly Spir-it, come a - bide with - in; may your joy be seen in all I
3. Ho-ly Spir-it, from cre - a - tion's birth, giv - ing life to all that God has

do. Love e - nough to cov - er ev - 'ry sin in each
made. Show your pow - er once a - gain on earth, cause your

thought and deed and at - ti - tude. Kind - ness to the great - est and the least;
church to hun - ger for your ways. Let the fra - grance of our prayers a - rise;

gen - tle - ness that sows the path of peace. Turn my striv - ing in - to
lead us on the road of sac - ri - fice, that in u - ni - ty the
works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON..... Acts 11:19-30
(page 920 in the pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON *Vital Signs, Part 3* George W. Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 290 "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise" LLANFAIR

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on "Amazing Grace" Christopher Pardini

♠Indicates congregation standing

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Instrumentalists: Susan Enger and Stephen Cook, trumpets; Greg Luscombe and Nathan DuVall, trombones; Caroline Kinsey, horn; Daniel Gilbert, violin; Stewart Plumlee, percussion; Stan Head, timpani; Samuel Metzger, organ

I. Evangelism (*Acts 11:19-21*)

A. Every situation is an opportunity

B. Every person needs to hear

C. Every effort to make clear

II. Apologetics (*Acts 11:22-24*)

A. What is apologetics?

B. Who are apologetes?

III. Discipleship (*Acts 11:25-26*)

A. Requires effort

B. Results in courage

IV. Mercy Ministry (*Acts 11:27-30*)

A. Kingdom focused

B. Earthly results