

St. John's Order of Worship

May 17, 2020

6th Sunday of Easter & Ascension Sunday

Welcome

The Ascension of Jesus was a promise and a hope for His disciples then, and it still is now for us. We rejoice in the Resurrection because Christ is risen. Because of His victory we rest in the promises of His Ascension. The disciples responded in worship; "And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God." Even as our usual "temple" of worship at St. John's is temporarily closed, our worship and hope is not. Blessings as you worship.

Opening Song

By His Wounds [Mac Powell]

Verse He was pierced for our transgressions
 He was crushed for our sins
 The punishment that brought us peace
 Was upon Him
 And by His wounds
 By His wounds, we are healed

Chorus We are healed by Your sacrifice
 And the life that You gave
 We are healed for You paid the price
 By Your grace, we are saved
 We are saved

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son† and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: O Christ, our risen and ascended King, we praise You for Your great love and sacrifice that has made us children of our Heavenly Father. We thank You for Your ascension and for leaving us the Spirit to be our strength and comfort in this life. Even through the trials, we trust that You have overcome sin, death, and the power of the devil, and we ask that You would keep us strong until that final day when You return once and for all to defeat death and to restore all of creation. This was ask in Your name, and the people of God declared:

C: Amen.

New Testament Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ And while staying 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the

immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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." ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon Song

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels (vs 1-3) [LSB 491] ALT TUNE LSB 793

Up through endless ranks of angels, Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending, Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful, Leaving them in happy tears.

Death destroying, life restoring, Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded, Living, for the wounded plead!

To our lives of wanton wand'ring Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed, To an endless Easter tide.

Children's Message

Message: 6th Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday
"Opened Minds"
Pastor David Nieman

Offering Song

Nailed to the Cross [Rend Collective]

Verse 1 When I stand accused by my regrets
And the Devil roars his empty threats,
I will preach the gospel to myself:
That I am not a man condemned,
For Jesus Christ is my defense.

Chorus 1 My sin is nailed to the cross; my soul is healed by the scars!
The weight of guilt I bear no more;
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Verse 2 When my doubt and shame hang over me
Like the arrows of the enemy,
I will run again to Calvary,
That rugged hill of Hell's defeat,
My fortress and my victory!

Chorus 2 My sin is nailed to the cross; my soul is healed by the scars!
Now I'm alive forevermore;
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Bridge It is finished! Sin is vanquished!
Hallelujah praise the Lord!
All the glory, all the honor
To my Savior, Christ the Lord!

Verse 3 When I stand before the throne at last
His blood will plead my innocence
I will worship Him with holy hands
And raise the song that never ends
Of Jesus Christ my righteousness

Ending Oh praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Prayer of the Church

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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you

And be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you

And † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Song

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (vs 1,4,5,6) [LSB 493]

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“You see Him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia, alleluia!

“Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we Shall praise Your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, With Father, and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!