



May 24, 2020

Ascension Sunday

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Jesus Shall Reign

Wilbur Held

*Arr.:©1979, Concordia Publishing House. Tune: © Oxford University Press.
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.*

The Introit

The Lord ascendeth up on high,
the lord hath triumphed gloriously,
in power and might excelling;
the grave and hell are captive led.
Lo! he returns, our glorious Head,
to his eternal dwelling.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Risen with Christ, let us seek the realities of the Spirit.

People: Our life is hidden with Christ in God.

Leader: He who descended is also ascended far above the heavens,
that he might fill all things.

**People: When Christ, our Life, appears,
we shall appear with him in glory! Alleluia!**

The Hymn No. 312

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

LLANFAIR

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!
Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!
Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!
3. See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!
4. See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

*Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press. From the "Revised Church Hymnary" 1927
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All rights reserved.*

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace.
Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land
with your healing love.
Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance,
and to bow to one another in real forgiveness.
By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts
and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us.
Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love which casts out our fear,
and bind us together in that unity
which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

Family of God
as Christ is our witness,
God's power to pardon is immeasurable.
Proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth:
through the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Amen. Alleluia!

The First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter page 781 with response

Psalm 47

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Response:

Charles Wesley
Robert Williams
harm. by David Evans



Earth and heav'n re - peat the cry, "Glo - ry be to God on high."

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great Ruler over all the earth,
- 3 who subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet,
- 4 **who chose our heritage for us,**
the pride of Jacob whom God loves

Response

- 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet

- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the Ruler of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the people gather
as the people of the God of Abraham
**For the shields of the earth belong to God,
who is highly exalted.**

Response

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn No. 157

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.
People:



The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People:



The Sermon

The Political Question

Dr. Drew Willson

The Affirmation of Faith No. 883

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Used by permission of the United Church of Canada

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

God Is Gone Up with a Merry Noise

Arthur Hutchings

God is gone up with a merry noise,
and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
Thou art gone up on high,
Thou hast led captivity captive and received gifts for men.
O sing praises unto our God. O sing praises unto our King.
He hath led captivity captive and received gifts for men.
Alleluya, alleluya. God is gone up on high.

Psalm 47:5-6; Psalm 68:18

©1967. Novello & Co. Ltd./Wise Music Classical

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 577*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, (of this hour)
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,(of these days)
for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, (kingdom's goal)
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, (we adore)
serving thee whom we adore.

The Benediction**The Choral Response**

The heavens with joy receive their Lord,
by saints, by angel hosts adored;
O day of exultation!
O earth, adore thy glorious King!
His rising, his ascension sing
with grateful adoration!

The Postlude*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

© C. F. Peters Corporation

Healey Willan

We thank these persons who participated in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Emily Downey, Gabrielle Maes, Todd Minnich, Sam Cook
Video:	Rachel Bates

Scriptures

Acts 1:1-11

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods 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 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul’s Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work 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 age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 24:44-53

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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,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,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.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.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.