



Easter 7 - Ascension

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WELCOME

Christ rules all things for his Church. We are celebrating Christ's Ascension today. The event took place 40 days after Easter (historically, that would have been Thursday). It is a reminder that Jesus does have all authority in heaven and on earth. He left the world triumphantly and with a promise to equip his Church with all the blessings we need to carry on his work. We will see that promise fulfilled next Sunday as we celebrate the festival of Pentecost. May God richly bless your worship today!



ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Opening Hymn: # 171 – “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”



<https://youtu.be/CgYOXg2JaoM?list=TLPQMjIwNTIwMjChbRFKpPkTwq>

- [M]: We worship in the name of God the Father at whose right hand our Savior now reigns!
- [M]: We worship in the name of Jesus Christ who ascended into heaven amid shouts of triumph!
- [M]: We worship in the name of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus Christ has sent in his name to live in our hearts.
- [M]: We worship the Triune God who has planned and carried out the salvation of sinners! Amen.
- [M]: Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ was taken away from his circle of disciples into the realm of glory in heaven. He now sits at the right hand of His Father. From there he is preparing for the final Day of Judgment. While we celebrate his glorious ascension, it is good for us also to prepare our hearts for his return by confessing our sins and leaning on his promises of forgiveness for our salvation.
- [C]: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I am troubled by my sins. I know that I have sinned against you as well as my fellow human beings. Angry thoughts, hurtful words, and loveless actions describe my life of sin. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as much as I have loved myself. I am sorry for my sinful behavior. I beg you to be merciful to me for the sake of Jesus, my Savior.**
- [M]: Our ascended Lord has completed his work of salvation for every sinner. You have confessed your sins and believed in Jesus to take your sins away. It has been done. It is my privilege to announce to you that your confession of sins has been heard by your Father in heaven for Jesus' sake. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: Lord Jesus, King of glory, 40 days after Easter 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. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON:

Acts 1:1-11

The weeks of Easter had been filled with breathless joy in the presence of their living Savior. For 40 days the disciples listened to the risen Christ speak about the kingdom of God. All the kingdom talk whetted their appetite for power and authority. They had seen their Savior suffer; now they were ready to see him win.

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

THE EPISTLE LESSON:**Ephesians 1:16-23**

The post-ascension disciples no longer had their teacher with them walking the roads of Israel as before. 21st century disciples do not have Jesus' visible presence with us either. Yet there is no ascension sadness, because the Church knows exactly where Christ is. He has taken up his power and has begun to reign with might that knows no limit and glory that knows no bounds.

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

THE SERMON HYMN: # 173*“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”*

<https://youtu.be/f3uXwatsVtc>

THE SERMON:**Luke 24:44-53**

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told 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 so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: 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 at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

This is a good time to pause your recording and prepare an online gift on our website under the tab "support" www.princeofpeacemartinez.com – you may also mail your offerings into the church. Remember that offerings are NOT mandatory but a joyful expression of our gratitude for the Word of God and the Sacraments God has given to his church for our salvation.

THE ASCENSION DAY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, great champion of our salvation, we praise you for ascending to heaven after your stunning victory over sin, Satan, and the grave. We praise you for completing your Father's rescue plan and for receiving from him all authority in heaven and on earth. Assure us each day that because you live and reign, our sins are forgiven, life is worth living, and death holds no terrors.

Lord Jesus, living head of the Church, we praise you for gathering us around your good news to be joined to you and united with one another. We praise you for the many dedicated servants of the Word who proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to people from all nations, also to us. Equip us to be instruments of your peace in our time and place. Open our mouths to speak your good news and change our lives so that we reflect the beauty of the teachings of God our Savior in everything we do.

Lord Jesus, mighty judge of the universe, we praise you for your promise that you will return to our world, not as a humble servant but in full majesty, to take us to live with you. We praise you for the certainty of your promises and the justice of your judgment. Prepare us for the day when you will come again; give us hearts that trust you more fully, hands eager to serve, ears opened to the music of your gospel, and lips to speak the truth in love. Keep us devoted to our common tasks in this life, yet keep our minds on things above, where our life is hidden with you, so that when you appear, we too will appear with you in glory.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for answering our prayers by leading Jonathan Neumann to accept our call to serve as pastor. We pray that you would grant him the wisdom to use faithfully the gifts you have given him to fulfill his ministry among us. Help us honor and respect him as your gift to our congregation. Enable us to work together with him in a spirit of harmony and love, that your kingdom may flourish among us and come also to the hearts of others, to the glory of your holy name.

O Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus to guide us into all truth, shower your gifts and graces on Christen Deines, Analys Vazquez, Dylan Moyer and all the graduates of our congregation. Make them truly grateful for the help others have provided them with their education. Enable them to use the lessons learned to advance their own welfare, to serve others, and to glorify your name. As they step into an uncertain future, strengthen them through your Word and sacraments, that they may be comforted and reassured by your presence. Teach them to demonstrate true wisdom and understanding by fearing and loving you and by keeping your commandments. We pray in Jesus' name, who with you and the Father are one Lord, now and forever.

We also implore you to watch over Martin Deines who has been diagnosed with blood clots on his lungs. May the medical treatment he receives repair the damage in his lungs and grant him a speedy recovery according to your good and gracious will. We implore you to watch over all who are sick, especially Kyung Mi Schroeder and Chery Bain. Comfort them with the promises of your abiding presence as they face the struggles that lay before them with the sure confidence that you are working all these things out for their eternal good. Send your holy angels to guard and transport Norman Carlson home to

heaven as the time of his departure seems close at hand. Fill his heart with peace and longing for the day when he will see with his own eyes his risen and Ascended Savior and hear with his own ears songs of praise in heavenly glory and comfort Louise and the Carlson family with the promises of salvation spoken by Jesus: "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Lord Jesus, hear us, for you have ascended to intercede before the Father for us. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

A MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Lord of the Nations, we come before you with remembering hearts. We think of the many long rows of crosses marking the graves of those who died in service to our country. We know that war and its weapons are not what you planned for this creation. We deplore the rebellion against you that brings such misery into our world. We confess that we fought our own battles against you and your ways.

God of our Fathers, in compassion for us you sent your Son into the world to establish peace between the holy triune God and the human race. We know that peace because Jesus paid the price for all sin and rebellion. We rejoice to know that our guilt has been covered with that ransom price.

God of Grace and Glory, the pages of history reveal the undeserved mercy that you have shown to our land. Through centuries of wars, and threats of wars, you have preserved

our nation. Our flag still flies high as a symbol of freedom and a beacon of hope to many. We know that this is not the result of our moral courage or our military might. It is your hand that has preserved us. It is your faithfulness that has shielded us.

You have granted to our nation sons and daughters who were willing to step forward in defense of our country. Whether draftee or volunteer, they did not fail to fall in for duty, nor did they desert their post. Some of them returned to us with broken bodies, others with wounded emotions. Some came back to us in caskets, and some lie buried far from their homeland. Lord, we thank you for these people. We ask you to remind us of the debt we owe to them. We ask you to help us cherish the freedoms their sacrifices enable us to enjoy.

God and Savior, many of the fallen were serving in your army while they wore the uniform of our Armed Forces and they named you as their ultimate Commander in Chief. We thank you for never forsaking them. We thank you for delivering them from fields of combat to the pastures of the blessed.

Be with our nation as it walks into the future. Correct, inspire, and guide it. Lord God, please bless America. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: # 170

“Draw Us to Thee”

<https://youtu.be/6nL7Xj4ArYo>

THE CLOSING PRAYER

[M]: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

THE BLESSING

[M]: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C]: Amen.