



*I pray that  
the God of our  
Lord Jesus Christ...  
may give you  
a spirit of  
wisdom...*

*Ephesians 1:17, NRSV*

## **The Sunday of the Ascension**

*Blessing, Glory, Wisdom and Praise are Yours*

### **Pre-Service Music**

#### **Preparation for Worship**

Let us adore our heavenly Father, who created us and gave us life; who sustains us with every good and perfect gift; and who loves us with an everlasting love.

**We praise you, O God our Father in heaven; and we acknowledge you to be the Lord.**

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus, who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, but did not sin; who perfectly accomplished his Father's will; who was obedient and died our death on the cross; who rose from the grave on the third day to proclaim our forgiveness; who ascended into heaven to rule over all things; and who will come again to take us to heaven.

**We praise you, O Son of the Father, our Savior and Redeemer; and we acknowledge you to be the Lord.**

Let us rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit, who gives and sustains the precious gift of faith; who brings us into the family of God; whose witness strengthens us; whose wisdom guides us; whose power enables us to serve the Father, and whose presence comforts us;

**We praise you, O Spirit, our promised Counselor; and we acknowledge you to be the Lord.**

#### **Opening Hymn**

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" Christian Worship 169 st. 1 & 3

#### **Confession of Sins**

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

#### **Absolution**

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

#### **Prayer for the Day**

O blessed Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, at your ascension you returned to your Father's throne and proclaimed your work was complete. Your ascension also reminds us of your great love for us. You have called us to be your people. You have set us apart for your service. You have even given us the promise of your never-failing presence. Continue to bless us through your love. Give us an extra measure of faith. Fill us with boldness and confidence to serve you without rival or excuse. Keep us safe until you return in glory—all to the praise of your holy name, the only name given whereby all people will be saved;

**Amen.**

## The Lessons from God's Word

**Acts 1:1-11**—<sup>1</sup>I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup>After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

### Response

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

*Christian Worship 171 st. 1*

A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New songs throughout the world shall ring. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascended to the throne of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Ephesians 1:16-23**—<sup>16</sup>I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, <sup>19</sup>and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. <sup>20</sup>It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God 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, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup>The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

### Response

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

*Christian Worship 171 st. 2*

The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with his followers they see  
Their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Luke 24:44-53**—<sup>44</sup>He said to them, “These are my words, which I spoke to 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.”

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

### **The Extinguishing of the Paschal Candle**

The extinguishing of the Paschal Candle reminds us that Jesus completed the work of our rescue, returned to his Father, and is no longer physically present with us. However, we live with the promise of his never-failing presence as the all powerful and victorious God, along with his promise of the Holy Spirit. Hear that promise:

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming to back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happened, so that when it does happen you will believe.”

This is the Word and promise of our Ascended Savior.

### **Hymn of the Day**

“Draw Us to Thee” Christian Worship 170 st. 1-3

### **Lesson for the Day - Ephesians 1:16-23**

#### **“The Prayer Remains the Same!”**

To know Christ fully  
To trust his great power  
To serve him joyfully

### **Confession of Faith—The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there 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.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

“Draw Us to Thee” Christian Worship 170 st 4-5

### **Prayer for the Day and Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead**

**us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen!**

### **Psalm of Praise**

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever. With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. <sup>2</sup> Yes, I have said, “Your mercy is built to last forever. In the heavens you establish your faithfulness.”

<sup>3</sup> The LORD said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one. I have sworn to David my servant. <sup>4</sup> I will establish your seed forever, and I will build your throne through all generations.”

<sup>5</sup> The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, also your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. <sup>6</sup> For who in the skies can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the sons of God? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord look on you with his favor; and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**

“A Hymn of Glory    Christian Worship 171 st 5-6