



ASCENSION

**May 21, 2020**

**OPENING HYMN**

**CW #175**

**175**

**Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise**



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Lift your  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he  
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he  
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for  
heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered  
loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing  
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious  
vail - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!  
to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.  
lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.  
all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain  
Partners in your endless reign,  
There your face unclouded view,  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

## INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

**C: 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.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

## Acts 1:1-11

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."

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 47, CW page 85

### *Refrain*

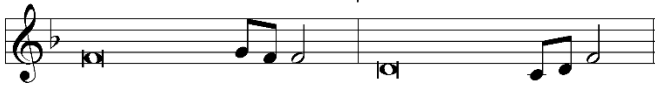


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

### *Psalm tone*



### **Refrain**

Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,  
the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations;  
God is seated on his holy throne.

### **Refrain**

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

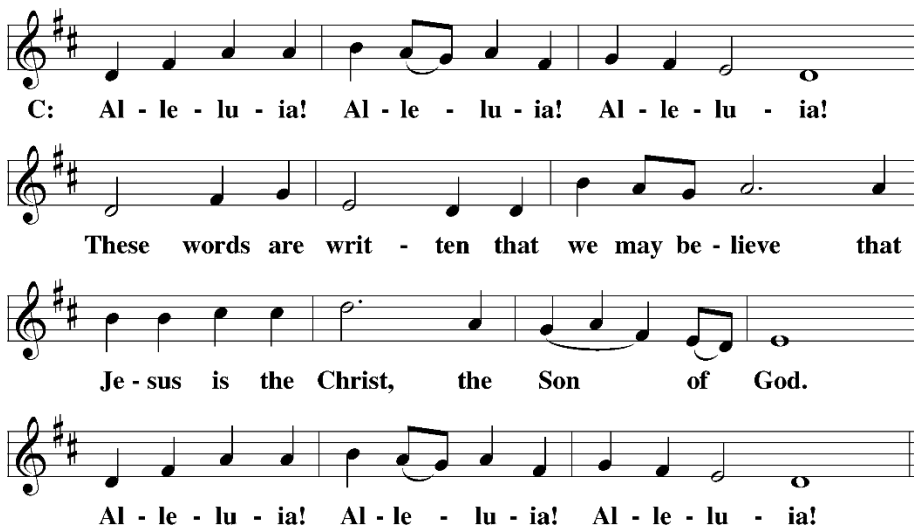
## **THE SECOND LESSON**

## **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.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! He says, "Surely I am with you always until the end of the age." Alleluia.



## THE GOSPEL LESSON

**Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "These are my words that 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.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

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## A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through -  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up - on the  
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high Up to the  
5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un -  
And with his fol - low - ers they see Their Lord as -  
"This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his  
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see Re - turn - ing  
Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we Shall praise your



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



6 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!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (888 888 with Alleluias) *Ausserlesene, Catholische, Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623, alt.

## SERMON

### **Ephesians 4:8-10** **“The Divine Mathematical Ascension Formula”**

<sup>8</sup> That is why it says, “When he ascended on high, he took captivity captive and gave gifts to his people.” <sup>9</sup> Now what does it mean when it says “he ascended,” other than that he also had descended to the lower parts, namely, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.

## 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.**

## **PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## **BLESSING**

**M: 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 favor and (+) give you peace.**

**C: Amen.**

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## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -  
 Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend  
 Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the  
 re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, abr., alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY (87 87 D) Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, alt.

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