

VESPERS

Thursday, May 21, 2020
The Ascension of Our Lord



In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast.

SERVICE OF LIGHT


Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.**


We are illumined by the brightness of his ris - ing. **Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.**


Death has no more dominion o - ver us. **Alleluia, alleluia, alle - lu - ia.**


Joy - ous light of glo - ry: **of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther;**


heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ.



We have come to the set-ting of the sun, and we look to the eve-ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir - it: You are wor-thy of



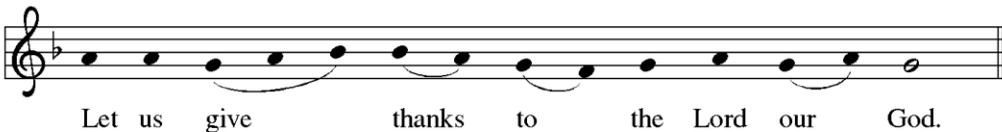
be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God,



O Giv - er of life: The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks...
...now and forever.



A - men.

PSALM 141



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick-ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



Let not my heart in-cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -



pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. But my eyes are



turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.



Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

PSALM 47



Clap your hands, O faith - ful peo - ple!



Shout to God a song of praise!

Verses (cantors):

1. Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise! From the dust of conquered nations, God a realm of grace shall raise. To God's name forever faithful, may we prosper all our days.
2. With a shout, and blast of trumpet, God shall mount a throne on high; let our praise, as finest incense, rise to meet God in the sky. Fill the world with glad rejoicing, heav'n shall sing, and earth reply.
3. Let your hearts be filled with gladness, as the Lord your life shall bless; live as heirs of God's great justice, wear the cloak of righteousness. God will grant us earth's dominion, all things good, and nothing less.

READING

Acts 1:1-11

Luke writes: In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the dominion of God. While staying with them, Jesus 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "You Galileans, 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

A time of silence follows the reflection.

MARY'S SONG (THE MAGNIFICAT)

I am ascending to my Father and your Father.

I go to my God and your God.



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-joic-es in



God my Sav-ior, for you have looked with fa-vor on your low-ly ser-vant.



From this day all gen-er-a-tions will call me bless-ed.



The Al-might-y has done great things for me, and ho-ly is your name.



You have mer-cy on those who fear you in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



You have shown the strength of your arm; You have scat-tered the



proud in their con-ceil. You have cast down the might-y from their thrones,



and have lift-ed up the low-ly. You have filled the



hun-gry with good things, and the rich you have sent a-way emp-ty.

You have come to the help of your ser- vant Is - ra - el,
 for you have re mem bered your prom- ise of mer- cy, the prom- ise you
 made to our fore-bears to A- bra- ham and his chil- dren for- ev- er.
 Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be- gin- ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

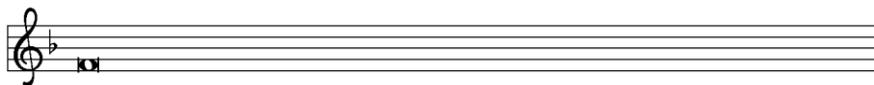
THE LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

BLESSING



Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,



keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Je - sus. **A - men.**

CLOSING HYMN



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, cries of tri - umph
2 Death-de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring send your prom - ised
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in his ears, to his heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
Spir - it guide; through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
as our broth - er in - ter - cede; flesh that for our
with your pow'r and love a - bide; wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia!



on his faith - ful, leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
you were wel - comed, to an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!