

May 16, 2021

# Ascension of the Lord Sunday



Farther Georges Saget, Ascension, 1963

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

## ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

**Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response**

### GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

**To God has gone up in a shout of joy.**

We are witnesses: the Lord is risen!

**Christ has ascended to reign on high.**

**Gathering Hymn**

***Crown Him with Many Crowns***

**#268**

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end;  
and round his pierced feet

**fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**4 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God,  
Your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,  
Ascended far above all heavens  
That he might fill all things.  
Mercifully give us faith to trust  
That, as he promised,  
He abides with us on earth to the end of time;  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns in unity with you  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, casting all our anxiety on the Lord, who cares for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God,  
You have raised Jesus from death to life,  
Crowned him Lord of all.  
We confess that we have not bowed before him,  
Or acknowledged his rule in our lives.  
We have gone along with the ways of the world,  
And failed to give him glory.**

**Forgive us,  
And raise us from sin,  
That we your faithful people,  
Obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who rules the world  
And is head of the church, his body.**

*Silence is Kept for personal confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ,  
will restore, support and strengthen us.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

### **Response in Praise**

***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***

**#591**

***Refrain:***

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

## **THE WORD**

### **A Time with the Children**

### **Gospel**

**Luke 24:44-53**

**Lay Leader: Aimee Ranaivoarijaona**

<sup>44</sup>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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

## **Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <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 had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods 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>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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."

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

## **Transitions**

## **Unity Hymn**

## ***I Love to Tell the Story***

**#462**

**1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else could do.**

***Refrain:***

**I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

**2 I love to tell the story;  
'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word. (*Refrain*)**

**3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. (*Refrain*)**

**Together, We Confess Our Faith**

**The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## RESPONDING

### Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory

**Doxology**                      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**#606**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great and mighty God,  
We praise you that you Christ has ascended  
To rule at your right hand.  
We thank you that he is Lord of our lives.  
By your Spirit,  
Give us freedom to love with his love,  
And embrace the world with his compassion.  
Accept the offering of our lives,  
That we may live into your command to serve  
In the name and for the sake  
Of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### Lord's Prayer

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the  
power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

## SENDING

### Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

**Sending Hymn**                      *Lift High the Cross*

**#826**

#### *Refrain:*

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*Refrain*)**

**2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (*Refrain*)**

**3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (*Refrain*)**

**4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. (*Refrain*)**

### **Blessing and Charge**

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,  
this day and forever. Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.  
Go and tell this good news to all.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

**Response                      Be Still and Know That I Am God**

**#414**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

### **Postlude**