

Celebration!

May 21, 2023
Ascension Sunday

Musical Offering: "Anthem for Resurrection"
John Mason Neale/Henry Thomas Smart

Open Up the Heavens

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in your name. Calling out to you – your glory like a fire, awakening desire will burn our hearts with truth

You're the reason we're here; you're the reason we're singing:

**Open up the heavens, we want to see you.
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river
flowing from your heart, filling every part of our praise**

**Your presence in this place, your glory on our face
we're looking to the sky descending like a cloud,
you're standing with us now Lord, unveil our eyes**

Show us, show us your glory; show us, show us your power; show us, show us your glory, Lord

Instrumental

Ending: **We want to see you**

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This is the day that the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Beautiful One

**Wonderful so wonderful is your unfailing love - Your cross has spoken mercy over me
No eye has seen no ear has heard - No heart could fully know how glorious how beautiful you are**

Chorus **Beautiful One I love - Beautiful One I adore - Beautiful One my soul must sing**

**Powerful so powerful your glory fills the skies - Your mighty works displayed for all to see
The beauty of your majesty awakes my heart to sing how marvelous how wonderful you are**

Bridge **You opened my eyes to your wonders anew - You captured my heart with this love
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as you**

Ending **My soul my soul must sing (3x) Beautiful One**

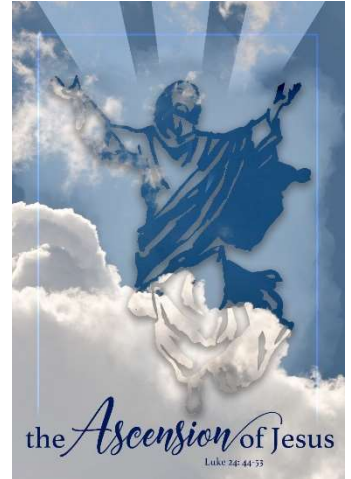
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Call to Worship

What a glorious vision! **Jesus gave the promise of the Holy Spirit!**
Then he ascended to God! **What emotions there must have been in the hearts of the disciples.**
May God find such joy in our hearts and spirits!
Prepare us, Lord, for the wonderful tasks you have given us to do.

Everlasting God

**Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord - We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord - We will wait upon the Lord**



Our God you reign forever - Our hope our strong deliv'rer

You are the everlasting God - The everlasting God

You do not faint - you won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Give us faith and trust in his promise that he will be with us on earth to the end of time, and help us to share his redeeming love to all this world. Amen.

Announcements and Parish Concerns

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 44-53

Sermon: Pastor Rachel Hacker

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain - holy holy is he

Sing a new song to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat

Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty

Who was and is and is to come

With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings

You are my ev'rything and I will adore you

Clothed in rainbows of living color, flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder

Blessing and honor strength and glory and power be to you - the only wise King

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder at the mention of your name

Jesus your name is power - breath and living water - such a marv'lous mystery yeah

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Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a living God, creator of all humankind, who has created and recreates the entire universe by power and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God in the flesh and our Savior and Lord. Because of his life, work, suffering and death, we know who we are, and what we can become through Christ. We believe God is present with us always and can be experienced in prayer, the Sacraments, the Word, and the community of believers. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

Confession

We have to confess, O Lord, that we are people who want to have everything proven for us. We hear the message in the scripture of Jesus' ascension, and we struggle with believing the vision. Forgive our doubting hearts and help us remember what really matters – that everything Jesus taught us was to prepare us to help build God's kingdom here on earth. We are called to be people of faith, not of absolute proof, as we understand it. Let us place our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Let us look with eyes of faith as the Holy Spirit continues to guide us here and now.

Words of Assurance

Although you have not stood on the mountaintop to see his ascension to God, yet you believe in the love and power of Christ who taught you how to be faithful and joyful disciples. Rejoice, and believe in him who came that you may have abundant life. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord, shaking hands or embracing and saying "The Peace of the Lord be with you"

Holy Communion

We rejoice today that Jesus was raised from death and ascended to reign forever. He has invited us to his feast where the Holy Spirit is present in bread and wine.

The body and blood of Jesus is a very real presence among us. We come to the table to find forgiveness, healing, and acceptance.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (contemporary form)

Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing of communion for those attending online:

Body of Christ, given for you.

Blood of Christ shed for you.

Come to the Lord's Table

All who seek the presence of Jesus Christ at God's table of grace are welcome to come and receive God's forgiveness in Holy Communion.

Please move front and center where the bread and wine will be given. Please take the bread and move to the server with the cup. As the server offers the cup, please dip (intinct) the edge of the wafer into the wine and place it in your mouth as the server says "the blood of Christ, shed for you". As the bread and wine are given you may wish to say "Amen". For any with medical or personal reasons for not using wine, the wafer (host) alone will impart the full benefit - you need not intinct (dip) your wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available, as is non-alcoholic grape juice. Simply ask when you get to the server.

Children are Welcome, Too!

Children who have not received instruction for first Holy Communion are welcome to come to the altar to receive a blessing.

Following Communion: Blessing and Prayer

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Let us pray... Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor ✠ and give you peace. **Amen**

He Reigns

**It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain
It's the song of the forgiven drowning out the Amazon rain
The song of Asian believers filled with God's holy fire
It's every tribe every tongue every nation a love song born of a grateful choir**

Chorus **It's all God's children singing
Glory glory hallelujah he reigns - he reigns** *repeat*

**Let it rise above the four winds caught up in the heavenly sound
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals to the faithful gathered underground
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation some were meant to persist
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples none rings truer than this** *chorus*

Bridge **And all the powers of darkness tremble at what they've just heard
'Cause all the powers of darkness can't drown out a single word**

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We Go Out To Serve

Go in Peace, serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**