

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**  
**21 May 2020**

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
C: Amen.

**HYMN - "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" 492**

1. **On Christ's ascension I now build, the hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled all doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.**
  
2. **Since Christ returned to claim His throne, great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone, no other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before, there all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.**
  
3. **O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, recalling Your ascension;  
That I may serve You faithfully in thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease, let me depart in joy and pace  
In answer to my pleading.**

**PSALM Psalm 110**

P: The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."  
C: **The Lord will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion; You will rule in the midst of Your enemies.**  
P: Your troops will be willing on the day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn, You will receive the dew of Your youth.  
C: **The Lord says to My Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."**  
P: The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind; You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.  
C: **The Lord is at Your right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His wrath.**  
P: The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for Your feet."  
C: **He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.**  
P: He will drink from a brook from beside the way; therefore He will lift up His head.  
C: **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.**  
P: The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

**HYMN – See, The Lord Ascends In Triumph 494**

- 1. See, The Lord ascends in triumph; conquering King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, to His heavenly palace gate.  
Hark! The choirs of angel voices joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted to receive their heavenly King.**
- 2. Who is this that comes in glory with the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory,  
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed His foes.**
- 3. While He lifts His hands in blessing, He is parted from His friends;  
While their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him, preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated to His everlasting home.**
- 4. Now our heavenly Aaron enters with His blood within the veil;  
Joshua is now come to Canaan, and the kings before Him quail,  
Now He plants the tribes of Israel in their promised resting place;  
Now our great Elijah offers double portion of His grace.**
- 5. He has raised our human nature on the clouds of God’s right hand,  
There we sit in heavenly places, there with Him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord’s ascension we by faith behold our own.**

**CONFESSION**

**P:** Let us now confess our sins to our gracious God.

**C:** **Lord of heaven and earth, we humbly confess our sinfulness and our sins to You.  
We beg for Your forgiveness and ask for Your mercy. Grant us the spirit of  
repentance and reconciliation with those from whom we are separated and who are  
separated from us, that with renewed hearts and lives we may continue our earthly  
journeys to Your heavenly throne.**

**ABSOLUTION**

**P:** God has promised forgiveness to those who repentantly turn to Him. As His called and  
ordained servant I forgive you all your sins. The blessing of the Father, Son, and Holy  
Spirit be with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

**HYMN - “Up Through Endless Ranks Of Angels” 491**

- 1. Up through endless ranks of angels, cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heavenly throne ascending, having vanquished all their fears,  
Christ looks down upon His faithful, leaving them in happy tears.**

2. **Death destroying, life restoring, proven equal to our need,  
Now for us before the Father as our brother intercede;  
Flesh that for our world was wounded, Living, for the wounded plead!**
3. **To our lives of wanton wandering, send Your Spirit, promised guide;  
Through our lives of fear and failure with Your power and love abide;  
Welcome us, as You were welcomed, to an endless Eastertide.**
4. **Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace,  
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to see the Father's face!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!**

#### **COLLECT**

**P:** Almighty God, Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

#### **FIRST LESSON - Acts 1:1-11**

Christ has risen from the dead, (God the Father) has crowned Him with glory and honour, He has given Him dominion over all the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

#### **EPISTLE - Ephesians 1:16-23**

Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia! Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia!

#### **HOLY GOSPEL - Luke 24:44-53**

#### **CREED**

**C:** **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 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 sits at the right Hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge both 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 "Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise"**

1. **Hail the day that sees Him rise  
To His throne above the skies!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,  
Re-ascends His native heaven.**

2. **See the heaven its Lord receives,  
Yet He loves the earth He leaves;  
Though returning to His throne,  
Still He calls mankind His own.**
  
3. **See, He lifts His hands above,  
See, He shows the prints of love,  
Hark! His gracious lips bestow  
Blessings on His Church below.**
  
4. **Still for us He intercedes;  
His prevailing death He pleads,  
Near Himself prepares our place,  
Harbinger of human race.**

## **SERMON**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in bringing You our worship and praise. Now also we bring our prayers to Your throne of grace, asking that You will graciously hear us.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** We pray for our world, the earth on which You walked, and all who live here now. Grant us all that we need for our lives that we may enjoy this place which is now our home.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P:** Also, we pray for the Church, which is our spiritual home. Bless the leaders and people with a full measure of faithfulness as we journey together toward our heavenly home.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** We pray for ourselves, that we would be true witnesses, sharing the Good News of Your triumph over sin, death and the devil and pointing people the way in which You have gone.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** On this day of rejoicing, we pray with special needs, whose earthly journeys are challenging or difficult. Especially we remember the sick, shut-in, and all those known to each of us who are in need of prayer.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Finally, Lord Jesus, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who rejoice in Your eternal presence, singing their unending hallelujahs. May we be inspired by their faithful witness and seek to serve constantly all the days of our lives.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** Go out into the world with peace and joy “for this same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

**C:** **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

## **CLOSING HYMN - “A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing” 493**

- 1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
  
- 2. The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with His faithful followers see, their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
  
- 3. To them the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
“This is the Saviour,” thus they say; “This is His glorious triumph day!”  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
  
- 4. You see Him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
  
- 5. 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!**