



Opening Hymn: 213

"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"

~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

P: Welcome to the celebration of our Lord's ascension into heaven. We worship our risen and ascended Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
Cong: ♪ "Amen"

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C: ♪ "And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise."

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: ♪ "Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!"

P: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray:


ALL: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. God has accepted the sacrifice of His Son and welcomed Him to His right hand in heaven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!



ASCENSION DAY PRAYER:


P: Let us pray: Grant we pray, almighty God, that even as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind ascend and continually dwell there with Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  "Amen"

ASCENSION DAY PSALM:

Psalm 47

- P: God has gone up with a shout,*
C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- P: Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!*
C: Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
- P: For the LORD Most High is awesome;*
C: He is a great King over all the earth.
- P: He will subdue the peoples under us,*
C: And the nations under our feet.
- P: He will choose our inheritance for us,*
C: The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.
- P: God has gone up with a shout,*
C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!*
C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- P: For God is the King of all the earth;*
C: Sing praises with understanding.
- P: God reigns over the nations;*
C: God sits on His holy throne.
- P: The princes of the people have gathered together,*
C: The people of the God of Abraham.
- P: For the shields of the earth belong to God;*
C: He is greatly exalted.
- P: God has gone up with a shout,*
C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

 Oh, sing with exultation, Sing to the Lord, rejoice,
And in His congregation Shout with triumphant voice.
For, lo, at God's right hand Is Christ in glory seated;
With death and hell defeated, As Victor doth command.

(TLH 217:1)

A HARMONY OF THE ASCENSION ACCOUNTS

Jesus presented Himself alive after His suffering to the apostles He had chosen by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father. "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."


So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And they worshiped Him.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Then with great joy they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. And after the Holy Spirit was poured out on them, His disciples went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

- P: God has gone up with a shout,*
C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

 Since Christ, our Lord, is living, We nevermore shall die;
To God the glory giving, We rise to Him on high.
Though chastened we may be And to our graves be taken,
We unto life shall waken And live eternally. (217:2)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord;

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death;

That I should be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from death, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn: 214

"Lo, God to Heaven Ascendeth"

SERMON

Ephesians 4:7-16 - I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF GOD'S POWER

- Worked in Christ

- At work in us

OFFERTORY:

P: *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Amen. (Col 3:1-4)*

♫ **To Thee, O Christ, be glory, Who camest in His name!**

Thy people sing the story Thy praises to proclaim.

We thank Thee and adore, O Christ, our Lord and Savior;

Thy grace and boundless favor

Stand fast forevermore. AMEN (217:4)

Hymn: 223

"We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend"

*~ Offering of Thankful Hearts ~
~ Prayers and Lord's Prayer ~*

BENEDICTION

(Luke 24:50-53)

P: *"And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."*

C: **"And they worshiped Him,
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and were continually in the temple praising
and blessing God. Amen."**



P: *Benediction*

C: ♫ **Amen, Amen, Amen**

Closing Hymn: 212:7

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"