

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

The Ascension of Our Lord 17 May 2012

Introit (*Ps. 47: 1–2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11*)

A Men of Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven?
Alleluia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into
heaven. Alleluia.

G Clap your hands, all peoples!*

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,*
a great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

God reigns over the nations;*

God sits on his holy throne.

❖ *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.

A Men of Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven?
Alleluia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into
heaven. Alleluia.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, as 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. Amen.

The Readings

Jesus Is Ascended, but Not Absent

On the fortieth day after His resurrection, our Lord ascended to the right hand of the Father. But although Jesus is hidden from your eyes, He is not absent from you. For He now fills all things in heaven and on earth. He continues “*to do and to teach*” (Acts 1:1), preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins through those sent in His name (Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:44-53), giving you His true body and blood in the Supper. Jesus is your great Elijah who pours out on you a double portion of His Spirit in the Word and the Sacraments (2 Kings 2:5-15). He is Lord over all things for the sake of the Church. He whom heaven cannot contain has raised your human nature to share fully in the glory of God. You who believe and are baptised into Christ’s body are already sitting in the heavenly places; for you are in Him who is at the Father’s right hand. When He comes again in the clouds on the Last Day, you also will appear with Him in glory.

Old Testament Reading—2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the

LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Psalmody:

Psalm 110

A ¹The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,* until I make your enemies your footstool.”

C ²The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.*

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

A ³Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;* from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

C ⁴The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,*

“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

A ⁵The Lord is at your right hand;* he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

C ⁶He will execute judgement among the nations, filling them with corpses;*

he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

A ⁷He will drink from the brook by 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.

A The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,* until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Second Reading—Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all

that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Alleluia and Verse (*Ps. 47:5; 68:18a*)

Alleluia!

**God has gone up with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

Alleluia!

**You ascended on high,*
leading a host of captives in your train.**

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel—Mark 16:14–20

¹⁴Afterwards [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Hymn of the Day:

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

1. A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Christ, by a road before untrod
Ascendeth to the throne of God.
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.
 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.
 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.
 5. Be Thou our Joy and strong Defence,
Who art our future Recompense,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
So shall the light that springs from Thee
Be ours through all eternity,
Alleluia.
- △ 6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One,
Alleluia.

Bede (673–735); tr. Benjamin Webb (1819–1885), alt.

Closing Hymn:

Risen Lord, in Splendour Seated

1. Risen Lord in splendour seated,
Throned at God the Father’s side,
Prince of life who death defeated,
Lamb who once for sinners died,
Christ for ever Son and Saviour
Reigns in triumph glorified.
2. He who came our nature bearing,
Child of earth from heaven’s throne,
Human trials and troubles sharing,
God himself in flesh made known,
Christ for ever with his people
Sends his Spirit on his own.
3. Love of God, unwearied, reaching
Furthest bounds of time and space,
Still by foolishness of preaching
Holding forth the word of grace,
Christ for ever interceding
Builds his church in every place.
4. Earth awaits her new creation
When from sin and death restored,
In the strength of full salvation
Christ is honoured and adored,
Christ for ever high ascended,
Sovereign, universal Lord!

Timothy Dudley Smith (1926–)

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