

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 24, 2020

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

INVOCATION

PRELUDE.....*"Blessed Be Your Name"*

PRAISE SONG.....*"Blessed Be Your Name"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING.....John 6:1-15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

HYMN #710.....*"Faith of Our Fathers"*

SERMON.....*Pastor Keith*

"THE MIRACLES OF JESUS"

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

John 6:1-15

CLOSING SONG.....*"Enough"*

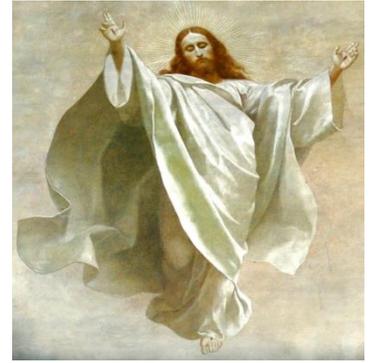
BENEDICTION/BLESSING

EXIT SONG.....*"One Day"*

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Ascension Day is the celebration of Christ ascending into heaven after His death, burial and resurrection. Ascension Day is observed primarily in Catholic and Anglican churches, and it occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. Ascension Day is also called the Feast of Ascension.

The story of Jesus' Ascension is told in Luke 24:49, Mark 16:19 and Acts 1:3, 9. Putting these accounts together, we find that after His resurrection, Jesus appeared several times to His disciples and others. During this time, He spoke to them further about the kingdom of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit, for whom they were to wait (Acts 1:2-9). After 40 days of these appearances, He was taken up to heaven for the last time (Acts 1:9-11). As the disciples watched Him go, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as He ascended, Jesus would return in glory.



According to one of the early church fathers, Augustine of Hippo, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. It may be one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century. Churches around the world have observed Ascension Day Feasts for centuries.

Ascension Day reminds us that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within our hearts, and of the ever-present Holy Spirit, watching over and protecting us as we spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world. The fact that Jesus was resurrected from the grave and ascended to the right hand of the Father is the source of our hope (1 Peter 1:3). We know that those who belong to Him by faith will one day be with Him in heaven.



A MEMORIAL PRAYER PRAYER

Dear Lord:

We are thankful for the sacrifice so many throughout our history have made, for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and for their families who had to carry on without them. It is a sacrifice that is easy to forget. Today, we remember a sacrifice made and a debt we cannot repay. Today we pray for the God of heaven to bless the families of those who have lost loved ones while serving our great nation.

We pray for our Lord Jesus Christ to bless and comfort the walking wounded who are still with us, and bless their families as well. It is also our prayer that we remember their sacrifice and the precious gift of freedom every day, not just once a year or when they are in danger of being taken away. Amen.