

2020 Ascension & Seventh Sunday in Easter May 24

Prelude: “How Great is our God” Top 50 Praise songs Disc 1, Song #15 (Used with CCLI - Christian Copyright Licensing International)

Welcome & Announcements

- Today we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven when he gave us the great Commission from Mathew 28: 16-20.
- Thank you, Ryan, Steve, & Michelle, for providing diversity in voices & the Men’s Quartet, Bennet, Dean, Rod, Tom & pianist Patti Thorssen, for live music today.
- Wednesday night worship around the campfire with Blake & Jake! (**Youth!** bring your guitars & learn the 8 basic chords?) Smores?
- Ivy & Sylvia
- Denny Rossell to be buried in HLC cemetery on May 29 at 4 PM
- Thank you to **all our people in each branch of the armed forces** & their families, we know you sacrificed time out of your life, some of you sacrificed quality of life that is ongoing, some of you made the ultimate sacrifice & lost your sons & daughters.
- Thank you to Sue Skunes for helping out in the office this week while Sylvia was with her sister recovering from heart surgery.
- Thank you, Marcy, for 5th grade first communion class
- Only 2 confirmands left, you know who you are.
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Invocation

Psalm100: 2 Serve the Lord with gladness, enter into his courts with praise

Hymn call to worship: “Nearer My God to Thee” (Used with CCLI licensure & permission of the FLBS choir, Plymouth, MN; of which a daughter of our congregation, Julia Albright is a member.)

- (1) Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a cross that raise'th me,
Still all my song shall be; Nearer, my God, to Thee; .Nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer to
Thee!
- (2) Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down; Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.
Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God to Thee; Nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer to
Thee!
- (3) There let the way appear, steps unto heav'n; All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given;
Angels to beckon me; Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer to
Thee!
- (4) Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise, Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll
raise; So by my woes to be. Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer
to Thee!
- (5) Or, if on joyful wing cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I'll fly,
Still all my song shall be; Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer to
Thee!
- (6) There in my Father's home, safe and at rest. There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest;
Age after age to be, Nearer my God to Thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

Prayer of Confession

L: Let us Pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(brief silence)

P: Most merciful God

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Absolution: Words of Comfort & Forgiveness

Hymn of thanksgiving: “What a Friend we have in Jesus” 100 Best Loved Hymns,
Disc1 Song #26

- (1) What a friend we have in Jesus; All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry; Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry; Everything to God in prayer
- (2) Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer
- (3) Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer

Verse of the day: ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw Him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**” (Matthew 28: 16-20, the Great Commission)*

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and before your throne, intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for our nation and our world. As we pray, impart to us wisdom and insight, through your Spirit, so that with our own small actions, we may be part of the solutions that are needed, and a blessing to all in need of your love and generosity. Guide your church, so that together our work brings glory and honor to the redeeming work of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayers of the Church: As forgiven and Renewed believers in Christ, let us be filled with His Spirit, as we pray for our church, our community, our nation, and our World as we dwell in God’s magnificent creation. (*brief silence*)

Eternal and redeeming Savior, we praise you for the incarnate life you lived in Christ Jesus, showing us your compassion for our humanity. Empower us, as your church through every challenge, seeing it as opportunity to be your compassionate witness in every time and place. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, Creation resounds with your glory and fills us with joy as we feel the gentle breezes and the warm soil, see the clear blue sky, touch the grass and new buds of plants emerging. Fill the leaders of our church, our community, our state and nation, with your wisdom so that we may dwell in harmony as the planets and stars in space do, according to your divine creative plan. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, Direct and influence all who are in military, judicial, legislative and executive authority to lead wisely and humbly, knowing they too answer to a higher power, so that by implementing your values of justice and mercy, they may serve you and the greater good. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Steadfast Lord, we are grateful that your compassion, patience and mercy is never-ending. We pray for those who feel abandoned, hopeless, grief-stricken, and are hurting; who are ill, in rehab, or suffering physical and emotional pain; as well as those who provide them with care especially (list). Give them the joy of your salvation, as well as hope and healing. Show us how to be instruments of your tender loving care and your presence in difficult situations. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

All-knowing and merciful God, we know that your ways are not our ways. We thank you for our civil servants, those who have protected our freedoms in military service, especially our freedom to assemble and our freedom to worship. We thank you for teachers and students, both those who impart wisdom and those who are willing to learn. We pray that with knowledge comes wisdom and discretion, we ask this especially for our own church families (Vera Paulson, Nathan & Jessie Pederson, Levi & Kelsey Perrine, Sean Peterson, & Norma Quam.) as well as those we name (pause for silent or audible prayer names) before you now. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Precious Lord, we remember with thanksgiving all those who have gone before us into your heavenly kingdom, and now rest from all their labors and the stressors of this life, comfort their families and show us how best to bring them solace. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, *merciful God*, and be evident in us through Jesus Christ, our Guide and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Psalm for Memorial Day: 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.² **For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome**, a great king over all the earth.³ He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.⁴ He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. ⁵God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.⁷ For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.⁸ God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted. (Psalm 47)

Prepare to hear the Word: Men's Quartet "Unsung Hero"

- (1) Let us sing for unsung heroes, those who lay their dreams aside. Choosing honor more than glory. Pledging faith with quiet pride. Those whose uniform is courage yet are unashamed of tears. Finding in their love of freedom power stronger than their fears.
Chorus: Sing a song for unsung heroes, sing from sea to shining sea. As the faithful sang before you, sing the song of liberty, sing the song of liberty.
- (2) Let us sing for unsung heroes, those who answer freedom's call. Those united by one purpose, all for one and one for all. We will sing and not be silenced, we will keep our voices strong, for as long as we keep singing, freedom's cry will still live on! **Chorus.**
- (3) My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.
(descant) America, land of liberty of thee I sing. Sing America, Sing America. Sing it from every mountainside, let freedom ring.
- (4) Let us sing the song of freedom, sing the song of liberty. America! (*Let freedom ring*)

First Reading: (Acts is the second book by the Apostle Luke. It begins the same way as the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's style of writing (addressed to "Theophilus" Greek for "Believer.") This helps us to know that he wrote both books. Indeed, some theologians believe that Acts is Part II and the Gospel is Part I of the same book, written by Luke. Luke is called 'the beloved physician' by Paul (Col. 4:14) and, as we learn from the book of Acts, was Paul's frequent companion. Luke was of Jewish ancestry, but his excellent use of the Greek language marks him as a Jew of the Dispersion that occurred under the Roman emperor, Tiberius, who beheaded the apostle James.) Tradition says that Luke was not only a physician but a painter, and a Jew from Antioch. Paul was from Tarsus.

Acts 1:1-11 ¹ In the first book (the Gospel of Luke), **Theophilus**, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ After his suffering **he presented himself alive to them** by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to **wait there for the promise of the Father**. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;⁵ for **John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, **is this the time** when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He replied, "It is **not for you to know** the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been

taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go** into heaven."

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 **I have heard of your faith** in the Lord Jesus **and your love** toward all the saints, and for this reason¹⁶ I do not cease to **give thanks for you** as I remember you in my prayers.¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him**,¹⁸ so that, with **the eyes of your heart** enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰ **God put this power to work in Christ** when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

"Thy Word" (Psalm 119: 105) - Songs for Worship, CD Song #2.

Gospel Luke 24:44-53

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—**that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**"⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name **to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And **they worshiped him and returned**, to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

"Thy Word" (Psalm 119: 105)- Songs for Worship CD, Song #2.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn: : “Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord” Top 50 Praise Songs Disc 2 Song #16.

Chorus: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You; I want to see You

(1) To see You high and lifted up

Shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy

(2) Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy

You are holy, holy, holy

Apostles creed

I believe in God the father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge 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

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Benediction

P: Jesus is alive! C: And that Makes All the difference.

CLOSING HYMN: “Onward Christians Soldiers” 100 best Loved Hymns disc 3 Song #20

**Chorus: Onward Christian soldiers; Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus; Going on before**

- (2) Onward then, ye people
Join our happy throng
Blend with ours your voices
In our triumph song **Chorus**
- (3) Christ the royal master
Leads against the foe
Forward into battle
See His banners go **Chorus**
- (4) Crowns and Thrones may perish
Kingdoms rise and wane
But the cross of Jesus
Constant will remain

Go in Peace, serve the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: “Hallelujah” (Used with CCLI licensure & permission of the FLBS choir,
Plymouth, MN; of which a daughter of our congregation, Julia Albright is a member.)**