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The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of The Majesty in Heaven.

*-Hebrews 1:3*

**Prayer Before Worship:**

Dearest Jesus, You desire for all people to join You in the glories of Heaven. Keep us faithful to Your Word and help us to obey Your commands. May we, through faith, be caught up to meet You in the air and ascend to our heavenly Home. You live and reign with The Father and The Holy Spirit: One God, now and always. Amen.

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**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

**May 18, 2023**

*"Draw Us to Thee" -HYMN# 170*

Leader: In the name of The Father, and of The Son(†), and of The Holy Spirit.

**Assembly: Amen.**

Leader: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy! How awesome is The Lord Most High, The Great King over all the Earth! **Assembly: He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom He loved.**

## THE ASCENSION STORY

**Leader:** In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to Heaven, after giving instructions through The Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen.

**Men&Boys:** After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive.

**Leader:** When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons.

**Women:&Girls:** She went and told those who had been with Him and who were mourning and weeping.

**Leader:** When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it.

**Assembly:** Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating. He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

**Leader:** Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.

**Women&Girls:** There they found the Eleven and those with them assembled together and saying, "It's true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

**Men&Boys:** After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

**Leader:** He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

**Assembly:** On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command:

**Leader:** "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with The Holy Spirit."

**Men&Boys:** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

**Women&Girls:** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

**Leader:** So when they met together, they asked,

**Assembly:** "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

**Leader:** He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates The Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when The Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.” He said to them,

**Men&Boys:** "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

**Women&Girls:** "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

**Assembly:** "And these signs will accompany those who believe. In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all. They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

**Leader:** Then He said, "All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit,

**Assembly:** And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Leader:** When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

**Men&Boys:** While He was blessing them, He was taken up into Heaven, before their very eyes, and a cloud received Him from their sight.

**Women&Girls:** And He sat at the right hand of God.

**Leader:** They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

**Assembly:** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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."

**Women&Girls:** Then they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

**Men&Boys:** When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

**Leader:** Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

**Women&Girls:** They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

**Men&Boys:** And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God!

**Leader:** Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere.

**Assembly:** And The Lord worked with them and confirmed His Word by the signs that accompanied it.

*Compiled by Pastor Coleman, Siloah Evangelical Lutheran Church, May 2023*

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Leader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, The Lord amid the sounding of trumpets! Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

**Assembly: God is The King of all the Earth.**

Leader: Sing to Him a psalm of praise! God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne.

**Assembly: The nobles of the nations assemble together as the people of the God of Abraham.**

*All: For the kings of the Earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted!*

*“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” -HYMN# 169*

## THE ASCENSION STORY

(see insert)

*“Psalm 47” -Joint Ascension Service Choir directed by Mrs. Beth Leyrer*

*Pastor Jon Balge, St. Matthew- Ephesians 1:16-23*

**Our Lord’s Ascension Places All Things Under His Feet**

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him, Who fills everything in every way.

*“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” -HYMN# 171 vv. 1-3*

*Pastor Christian Marquardt, St. James- Ephesians 2:1-10*

**Our Lord’s Ascension Gives Us the Privilege of Doing Good Works**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air; the spirit who is now at work in those who are

disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" -HYMN# 171 vv. 4-6*

*Pastor Keith Amborn, Abiding Word- Ephesians 3:7-12*

**Our Lord's Ascension Gives Us Access to the Throne of God**

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

**GATHERING OF ASCENSION OFFERINGS**

**ASCENSION PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*"Revelation 19" -Siloah's Gospel Choir directed by Ms. Adrienne Hicks*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**THE BLESSING OF THE LORD**

*"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" -HYMN# 173*