

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 29, 2022 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

The Ascension of the Lord

GATHERING

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty
and girded with strength.

His throne is established from of old;

He is from everlasting.

O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is awesome,
a great King over all the earth.**

He sits on His holy throne.

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

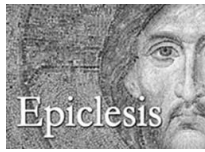
Sing praises to God; sing His praises!

We sing praises to our King! We will shout His praises!

For majestic on high is the LORD!

– from Psalms 47 and 93





Psalm 24 (The King of Glory)

The King of glory reigns over all the world.
His mighty hand sustains the heavens and the earth.
Who may come to Him, and seek His holy face?

He calls the pure in heart; all whose hands are clean.
And those who love His name above all other things.
Humbly I will bow, and Jesus' name confess.

He reigns, He reigns: Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

Swing wide, you ancient gates, let the King come in.
His glory never fades; our hearts delight in Him.
Ev'ry knee will bow. Ev'ry tongue confess:

He reigns, He reigns: Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.
He bore a cross of shame. Sing Hosanna!
Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty.
He rose up from the grave. Sing Hosanna!

He reigns, He reigns: Jesus, the Lord.
He reigns, He reigns forevermore.

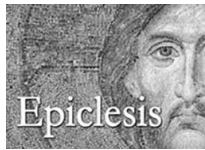
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

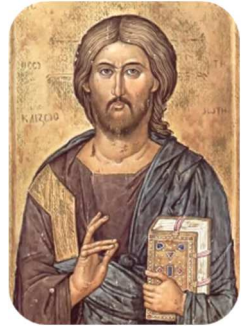
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing;
New* songs throughout the world shall ring.
Christ*, by a road* be*fore untrod*
Ascen* deth* to the throne of God.



O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All* praise to Thee let earth accord.
Who* art, while end*less* ages run*,
With Father and* with* Spirit One.

O grant us thitherward to tend,
And* with unwearied hearts ascend,
Un*to Thy king*dom's* throne, where Thou*
As is our faith*, art* seated now.



Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735), *Hymnum canamus Domino*;
translated from Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854.
Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15th C. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ:

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him;

*In love, He predestined us to adoption as His children,
in accordance with His pleasure and His will;*

In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins, according to His grace;

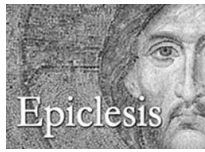
*He has made known to us the mystery of His will,
to bring all things in heaven and on earth into unity in Christ;*

Having believed in Him,
we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
the guarantee of our inheritance in Him,
to the praise of His glory.

*In the exceeding greatness of His power,
He raised Christ from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.*

**He has put all things in subjection under His feet,
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

– from Ephesians 1:3-23



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?
*Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
Whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous.*

[Silence]

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?
*Those who speak the truth from their hearts,
Who do no wrong to a neighbor.*

[Silence]

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?
Those who honor those who fear the LORD.

[Silence]

They shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness
from the God of their salvation; they will never be shaken.
*This is the generation of those who seek Him,
of those who seek Your face, O God.* – from Psalms 15 and 24

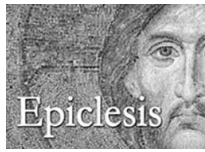
Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High, the Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

For You alone are Lord Most High, the Holy One, our heav'nly King.
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory:
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis (“*Glory to God in the highest*”)
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of our pardon in His grace:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us,
even when we were dead in our sins and transgressions, made us
alive together with Christ – By grace we have been saved –

**And He raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the
heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He
might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward
us in Christ Jesus.**

– Ephesians 2:4-7

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Only King Forever

Our God and firm foundation,
Our Rock, the only solid ground;
The nations rise and fall.
Kingdoms, once strong, now shaken;
We trust forever in Your name: the name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus

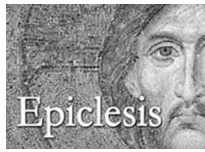
You are the only King forever; Almighty God, we lift You higher.
You are the only King forever; forevermore, You are victorious.

Unmatched in all Your wisdom,
In love and justice You will reign;
And every knee will bow.
We bring our expectations;
Our hope is anchored in Your name: the name of Jesus.
Oh, we trust the name of Jesus.

Bridge

We lift our banner high; we lift the name of Jesus;
From age to age You reign; Your kingdom has no end.

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THE WORD

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

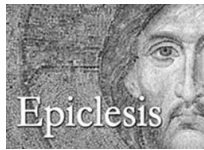
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen





Before the Throne of God Above

Before the Throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in Heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.



When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there,
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died my sinful soul is counted free;
For God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Before Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace:
One with Himself I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His Blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God;
With Christ my Savior and my God.

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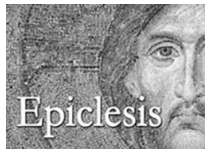
SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Crown Him With Many Crowns (reprise)

Crown Him the Lord of lords, who over all doth reign,
Who once on earth, th'incarnate Word, for ransomed sinners slain,
Now lives in realms of light, where saints with angels sing
Their songs before Him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851. Hymn tune: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.



Benediction:

Jesus Christ, this man who is God, participated in our humanity to die for us and to be resurrected for us, and He now has ascended to the very throne of God to continually represent us to the Father.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

We have a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

And who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

He who did everything that ever needed to be done to save us now continually stands before the Father interceding for us!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Adapted from Hebrews 7 and 8, and Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004)

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“We must journey on, then . . . Run with the heart’s affection, journey on with love, ascend by charity. Why do you seek for the way? Cleave unto Christ, who by Descending and Ascending has made Himself the Way. Do you wish to ascend? Hold fast to Him that ascends. For by your own self you cannot rise. ‘For no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven.’ If no one ascends but He that descended, that is, the Son of Man, our Lord Jesus, do you wish to ascend also? Be then a member of Him who Only has ascended. For He the Head, with all the members, is but One Man. And . . . no one can ascend, but he who in His Body is made a member of Him.”

– Augustine

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Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; John 16:4b-15

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Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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