



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH REDCLIFFE
SERVICE ORDER FOR 16th MAY,
COMMEMORATION OF THE ASCENSION



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Almighty God,
we believe in your Son, our Lord,
who ascended into heaven.
Lead us also to ascend there in heart and mind,
and take us to live with him forever.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Luke 24:49

*Jesus said,
“And see, I am sending you what My Father promised;
so stay here in the city
until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

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“And see, I am sending you what My Father promised;
so stay here in the city
until you have been clothed with power from on high.”**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

SONG: AT 161: Majesty (click [here](#))

**Majesty, worship His majesty. Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne unto His own, His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty. Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.**

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CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.***

INTROIT: Psalm 47

¹ *Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.*
God has gone up with a shout.

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.*
God has gone up with a shout.

⁵ *God 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.*
God has gone up with a shout.

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.*

God has gone up with a shout.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that Christ will rule over all.

[silence]

Thank you, eternal Father,
that your Son Jesus ascended to your right hand,
to rule over all things as Lord.
Keep your church in the unity
that the Spirit gives,
and bring all creation
to submit to Christ as Lord.
For he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Jesus said: 'Go and make disciples of all nations;
and I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

Alleluia.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11 Jesus' ascension, promise and commission

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³ After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' ⁶ Then they gathered round Him and asked Him, 'Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ '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.'

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 Christ is the supreme Lord over all things (MEV)

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, mentioning you in my prayers, ¹⁷ so that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, ²⁰ which He performed in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principalities, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all ways.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53 Jesus commissions and blesses the disciples (NET)

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁴⁴ Then He [Jesus] said to them [His disciples], "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 and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. ⁵¹ Now during the blessing He departed and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple courts blessing God.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ,
thank you for fulfilling the Scriptures and returning to the Father.
Fill us with the joy of your continual presence.

Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come 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

Song: Crown Him with many crowns (click [here](#))

**Crown Him with many crowns, the lamb upon the throne:
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:
awake my soul and sing of Him who died for me,
and hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save:
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, behold His hands and side:
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward went His burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of peace whose power a sceptre sways;
from pole to pole that wars may cease and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend, their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling sphere ineffably sublime.
All hail Redeemer, hail, for Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel (click [here](#))

SONG: Before the throne of God above (click [here](#))

**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 of all my sin.
One with Himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

**Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless, righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
Because the sinless Saviour 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ, has been raised to the right hand of God. Let us pray to him that he would intercede for us and for all the world before our Father in heaven.

Mighty God, we pray for those who exercise authority in our country, especially our Prime Minister, and all those involved in federal, state and local levels of government. Strengthen them in difficult times, and help them to make good decisions for the benefit of all.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for those caught in sin that they may know the freedom which forgiveness brings. Help us to share your love with a world in desperate need of your grace and forgiveness.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Just and Merciful Father, we pray for the release of captives, especially those unfairly imprisoned, and for lands ruled by oppressive regimes. Let your peace and freedom reign!

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for justice for the poor, and give thanks for a society which makes provision for people in difficult circumstances. Be with all those facing unemployment and all kinds of hardships in our society, and give us eyes to see and hearts to care for them.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, we especially pray for those who bear intolerable burdens of illness, grief, or anxiety, especially in this time of COVID-19. Bring healing, comfort and peace. Bless all those who care for the sick.

Ascended Lord,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, you ascended into heaven, to your Father and our Father, to your God and our God. Always remember us, and never cease to represent our cause before the throne of God, with whom you live and reign, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!*

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BIBLE VERSE

Luke 24:49

*Jesus said,
"And see, I am sending you what My Father promised;
so stay here in the city
until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

**Jesus said,
"And see, I am sending you what My Father promised;
so stay here in the city
until you have been clothed with power from on high."**

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May the ascended Lord Jesus
give you power from on high.
May He bless you and fill you with joy.*

**May the ascended Lord Jesus
give you power from on high.
May He bless you and fill you with joy.**

WORDS OF SENDING

*May Christ our exalted king
pour on you His abundant gifts
and bring you to reign with Him in glory.
Go in peace to witness in the power of the Lord.*

**In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

SONG: Christ is mine forevermore (click [here](#))

**Mine are days that God has numbered; I was made to walk with Him.
Yet I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer; though I fall, His love is sure.
For Christ has paid for every failing; I am His forevermore.**

**Mine are tears in times of sorrow; darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good.
But mine is peace that flows from heaven and the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted; Christ completes His work in me.**

**Mine are days here as a stranger; pilgrim on a narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter harm and hatred for His name.
But mine is armour for this battle strong enough to last the war.
And He has said He will deliver safely to the golden shore.**

**And mine are keys to Zion city where beside the King I walk.
For there my heart has found its treasure; Christ is mine forevermore.**

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Acts 1:1-11

LHS

- 90 Christ the Lord is risen again G8
106-115, esp:
106 Since Christ is gone to heaven, His home* G3
111 Hail the day that sees Him rise G5
112 Hail, Thou once despised Jesus G3
113 Crown Him with many crowns G5
114 See the Conqueror mounts in triumph G4
115 Rejoice, the Lord is King
285 To Thy most holy supper, Lord * G5
761 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing G3
771 Hallelujah! sing to Jesus G3
782 At the name of Jesus G7
788 Lord, who left the highest heaven G8
843 Saviour, to the Father's side (*holy communion*)

AT

- 26 He is Lord
161 Majesty
162 King of kings and Lord of lords
163 Hymn of glory
166 Clap your hands, all you people
226 All is nearness
252 He is exalted
257 Jesus is living
370 You are glorious

Second reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

In addition to those suggested for the first reading:

LHS

- 169 The head that once was crowned with thorns G5
528 Christ, whose glory fills the skies G5

AT

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Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

In addition to those suggested for the first reading:

LHS

- 219 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun G3
221 Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word* G5

AT

- 103 Send your servant down the road