

Ascension of the Lord

May 9, 2024

Ascension of the Lord (Year B)

As Jesus is taken up into heaven, his disciples look on. They have just received their final instructions from him, along with clarification of things he has already taught them but that they can understand better now, having seen what they have seen. For those who believe in Christ, the hope of our calling is centered in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Eternal life awaits us, but until then there is much to do for the spreading of the good news.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 1:1–11

Jesus’ Ascension

The apostles questioned Jesus concerning the time when the promised Holy Spirit would appear. In reply, Jesus told them that the time was not theirs to know, but when it happened they were to share the good news concerning Jesus in their own city and beyond, to the farthest corners of the world. Having thus commissioned the apostles, Jesus ascended into heaven before their eyes.

Psalms 47

Sing Praises to God

The psalmist proclaims that God is Lord over all the earth; sing to the Lord your highest praise. He is Lord over princes and rulers, godless nations, and all people. God is exalted above all things.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15–23

The Hope of His Calling

The author of Ephesians prays that the members of the church in Ephesus will continue in their faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, receiving wisdom and revelation from the Holy Spirit so that they might better know God; all this so that they might know the hope to which they have been called which is centered in the resurrection.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44–53

You Are Witnesses to These Things

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to the scriptures enabling them to understand his death and resurrection as the fulfillment of the prophecy. He then promised that they would be his witnesses in all nations. As he led them toward Bethany, he blessed them and ascended into heaven, disappearing from their sight.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- Today is the fortieth day after Easter which commemorates Jesus’ ascension into heaven. This day has great theological significance.

Because Christ ascended into heaven and “is seated at the right hand of God,” as the Creeds confess, we know that we have a great High Priest in the heavenly places that intercedes on our behalf. We know that because he died and was raised from the dead to live in heaven, we will share in that same course of events. This is foundational to our faith.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies	265	---	873	553	164	164
All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name	328	---	549	634	16	16
At the Name of Jesus	179	---	512	416	127	127
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing	562	---	964	841	---	---
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing	157	---	493	393	---	---
Dearest Jesus, At Your Word	248	---	---	520	203	203
Give to Our God Immortal Praise	520	---	---	848	12	12
Go, My Children, with My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
Let Us Break Bread Together	212	---	---	471	83	83

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Exalted Over All (CCLI# 7065022)
He is Exalted (CCLI# 17827)
There is a Lamb (CCLI# 7100145)
We Are Conquerors (CCLI# 7014648)
Look How He Lifted Me (CCLI# 7031516)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.