

WITNESSES

AS WE GATHER

What have you witnessed? Jesus' disciples witnessed Jesus teach with authority, feed the five thousand with a few loaves of bread and some fish, heal people of a variety of diseases, and even bring Lazarus back to life. Yet, in spite of what they witnessed, they struggled to believe the story would continue after Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. Surprise! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Following the resurrection, they witnessed more amazing things Jesus said and did, and now they would get their chance to share what they had seen and heard. What have you seen and heard about Jesus? What have you seen and heard Jesus do in your life? Who can you share with what you have witnessed?

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN "UP THROUGH ENDLESS RANKS OF ANGELS"

#491



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
△ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for

 ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let

 know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking

into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C He has put all things under His feet.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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 one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

P Alleluia.

C We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Alleluia.

C Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

P Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44–53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on

the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING"

#493



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
 4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
 on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
 stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

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SERMON

CREED

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, we live in a world filled with hopelessness and fear. Yet You give fruits of the spirit of love and self-control, not fear. Lead us as we proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Your name to all nations. Ascended Lord,

C empower us to be witnesses of hope.

P Lord Jesus, we lift up to You those who are grieving. We pray that they do not grieve as those who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. Ascended Lord,

C empower us to be witnesses of hope.

P Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are struggling with physical and mental health challenges, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Jen, John, Leah, Jonathan, Rod, and Kris*. Give them strength to meet the days ahead—healing of body, mind, and spirit—and ever-present reminders that You are always with them. Ascended Lord,

C empower us to be witnesses of hope.

P Lord Jesus, some may trust in horses and chariots, but we trust in the Lord, our God. As we put our trust in You, we pray for our elected leaders and ask that You lead them with Your wisdom, that they govern diligently and faithfully. Ascended Lord,

C empower us to be witnesses of hope.

P Lord Jesus, we look forward to that day when You will beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. As we wait for that day, we ask that You watch over and work through all first responders and members of the military to bring peace and healing to our community and world. Ascended Lord,

C empower us to be witnesses of hope.

- P** Lord Jesus, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy. In Your holy name, we pray.
- C** Amen.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

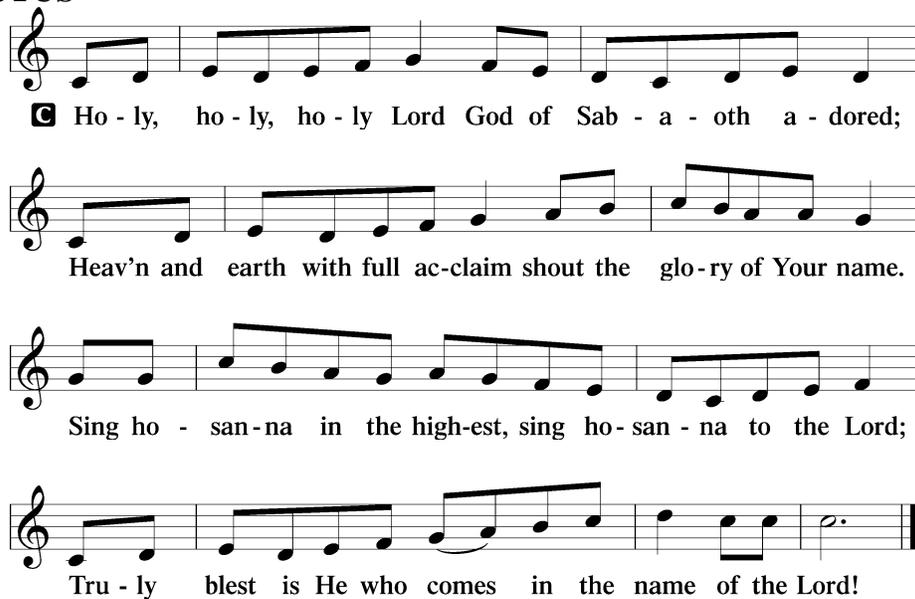
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, ascended Lord, for You have had mercy on all humanity as You took on our flesh and our punishment, dying for the sins of the world before rising again and returning to Your Father and our Father.

Forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat and drink Your body and blood. Send us out as Your witnesses to share what we have seen and heard and to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all people in Your name. Keep us in the one true faith as we wait for Your return in glory. To You alone who are to be praised above every name we give all honor, glory, and praise, for You rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

- C** 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.

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

489 HAIL THEE, FESTIVAL DAY

sts. ref-a-6

Refrain
 All
 Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
 Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.
 All
 Ascension 1 He who was nailed to the cross Is rul - er and
 3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, The rul - er of

Lord of all peo - ple. All things cre -
earth and the heav - ens, Guard us from

at - ed on earth Sing to the glo - ry of God:
harm with - out; Cleanse us from e - vil with - in:

Refrain
All



Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;



Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign.

Choir 3 3



Ascension 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, A - dorned with the
4 Je - sus, the health of the world, Cre - a - tor of



glo - ry of blos - som; Heav - en her gate - way un -
all and re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -



bars, Fling - ing her in - crease of light:
preme, On - ly - be - got - ten of God:

5 Spirit of life and of pow'r,
Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all,
Life that in all may abide: Refrain

6 Praise to the giver of good!
O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days;
Order our ways in Your peace: Refrain

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast that awaits us when Your Son returns. Keep us firm in the true faith and lead us as Your witnesses, proclaiming repentance and the forgiveness of sins to everyone in the name of Your Son, our ascended Lord, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS”

#575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

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