

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 215 (red hymnal)

Draw us to Thee





WELCOME AND BLESSINGS ON YOUR WORSHIP!

“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

The Festival of Our Lord’s Ascension

May 5, 2016, 7:30p

A Service of the Word

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 66, forepart of TLH p.136

OPENING PRAYER

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray,

Congr. (C) O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that by the preaching of Your Word we may be brought to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ’s sake. Amen.

M The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C Amen.

M It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

M to herald Your love in the morning,

C Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 110:1,4-5; 47:5

M The Lord said to my Lord,

C “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

M The Lord has sworn And will not relent,

C “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

M The Lord is at Your right hand;

C He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

M God has gone up with a shout,

C The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

M To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

M To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all;

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

M To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

M Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

M Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

M Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

M Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

M O Christ,

C hear us.

M O Lord,

C have mercy.

M O Christ,

C have mercy.

M O Lord,

C have mercy.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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!

HYMN

TLH 212:5-7 (red hymnal)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

THE LITANY ~ Calling on Christ to Intercede for the Church and the World

- M O Lord, **C have mercy.**
- M O Christ, **C have mercy.**
- M O Lord, **C have mercy.**
- M O Christ, **C hear us.**
- M God the Father in heaven, **C have mercy.**
- M God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C have mercy.**
- M God the Holy Spirit, **C have mercy.**
- M Be gracious to us. **C Spare us, good Lord.**
- M Be gracious to us. **C Help us, good Lord.**
- M From all sin, from all error, from all evil,
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from way and blood shed; from sedition and
from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and
from everlasting death:
C Good Lord, deliver us.
- M By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody
sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the
Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
C Help us, good Lord.
- M In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of
death and in the day of judgment:
C Help us, good Lord.
- M We poor sinners implore You
C to hear us, O Lord.
- M To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors
and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way
of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your
harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit;
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

SING (w intro, from TLH 217)

**Oh, sing with exultation,
Sing to the Lord, rejoice,
And in His congregation
Shout with triumphant voice.
For, lo, at God's right hand
Is Christ in glory seated;
With death and hell defeated,
As Victor doth command.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SING (w intro, from TLH 217)

**Since Christ, our Lord, is living,
We nevermore shall die;
To God the glory giving,
We rise to Him on high.
Though chastened we may be
And to our graves be taken,
We unto life shall waken
And live eternally.**

PSALMODY

M Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
C Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
M For the Lord Most High is awesome;
C He is a great King over all the earth.
M He will subdue the peoples under us,
C And the nations under our feet.
M He will choose our inheritance for us,
C The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.
M God has gone up with a shout,
C The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
M Sing praises to God, sing praises!
C Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
M For God is the King of all the earth;
C Sing praises with understanding.
M God reigns over the nations;
C God sits on His holy throne.
M The princes of the people have gathered together,
C The people of the God of Abraham.
M For the shields of the earth belong to God;
C He is greatly exalted.

SING (w intro, from TLH 217)

**To Thee, O Christ, be glory,
Who camest in His name!
Thy people sing the story
Thy praises to proclaim.
We thank Thee and adore,
O Christ, our Lord and Savior;
Thy grace and boundless favor**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

based on Philippians 2:5-11

M Let this same mindset be found in us
C which was also in Christ Jesus,
M who, being in the form of God,
C did not regard equality with God something to be seized,
M but rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave,
C and being born in the likeness of men;
M He humbled himself, and became obedient to the point of death,
C even the death of the cross.
M For this reason, God has exalted him,
C and granted him the name which is above every name,

Psalm 47

M that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow—
C of those in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth—
M and that every tongue should confess:
C “Jesus Christ is Lord”
M to the glory of God the Father,
C Amen.

HYMN

TLH 212:1-4 (red hymnal)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

SERMON

Acts 1:1–11

¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Christ’s Ascension Teaches Us to Pray:
Thy Kingdom Come