

# Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Ascension 2020

Hymn #157 Lutheran [Green] Hymnal ‘A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!’

*A hymn of glory let us sing;  
new songs throughout the world shall ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascendeth to the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Be Thou our Joy and Strong Defense,  
who art our future Recompense.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
So shall the light that springs from Thee  
be ours through all eternity.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to Thee let earth accord,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
who art, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**  
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*People* **Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to show us your ways. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave

Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**Psalm 47**

***Omnes gentes, plaudite***

Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*

**shout to God with a cry of joy.**

For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \*

**he is the great King over all the earth.**

He subdues the peoples under us, \*

**and the nations under our feet.**

He chooses our inheritance for us, \*

**the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout, \*

**the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.**

Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*

**sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is King of all the earth; \*

**sing praises with all your skill.**

God reigns over the nations; \*

**God sits upon his holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*

**with the people of the God of Abraham.**

The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*

**and he is highly exalted.**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### **Holy Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

Jesus said to 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

### **Sermon**

#### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten not made of one being with the Father.**

**Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn,  
bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.  
Especially we thank you--

- for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .
- for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
- for the gifts of relationship with others . . .
- for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of compassion, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children,  
and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray--

- for those who govern nations of the world . . .
- for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
- for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
- for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .
- for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day.  
Preserve us with your mighty power and unfailing love,  
that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity.  
In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray together:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

### Hymn #530 Lutheran [Green] Hymnal 'Jesus Shall Reign'

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run,  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

*To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head.  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.*

*People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.*

*Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.*

*Let every creature rise and bring  
the highest honors to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.*

## Dismissal