

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 21, 2020

The Forgotten Holiday: Ascension Day

“While some church bodies may have special days, saints’ days, or commemorations on their calendar that are not found in others, the Ascension is celebrated throughout the Church on earth along with the Passion, Easter, and Pentecost...The importance of Christ’s ascension into heaven is the reason it is celebrated in the Church. The emphasis on the Ascension in the Church Year was so great...that it became a secular holiday and remains so in many European nations, e.g., Germany, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries.” Read the rest of this article in “The Forgotten Holiday,” *The Lutheran Witness*, May 2010

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build, Lutheran Service Book 492, Lutheran Worship 150, The Lutheran Hymnal 216

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build

NUN FREUT EUCH

Josua Wegelin, 1604-1640

Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524



1. On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build the hope of my as - cen - sion;
2. Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, great gifts for me ob - tain - ing,
3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, re - call - ing your as - cen - sion,



this hope a - lone has al - ways stilled all doubt and ap - pre - hen - sion;
my heart will rest in him a - lone, no oth - er rest re - main - ing;
that I may serve you faith - ful - ly, a - dorn - ing your re - demp - tion;



for where the head is, there as well I know his mem - bers
for where my trea - sure went be - fore, there all my thoughts will
and then, when all my days will cease, let me de - part in



are to dwell when Christ will come and call them.
ev - er soar to still their deep - est yearn - ing.
joy and peace in an - swer to my plead - ing.

L Christ is Risen!
C He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

L Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
C Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.

(Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b)

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.”

Not too long ago, I sat listening to a discussion that was beyond my comprehension. This trio of conversationalists could have been speaking Russian or Chinese and I wouldn't have understood them less. Yet they were enthralled with every minute detail of their topic: new video games!

Has this ever happened to you? I mean being on the other side of such a dialogue? You are enthralled and excited about some event or experience and the people you are speaking with haven't a clue about the reason for your excitement.

This happens to me whenever I try to recount the breathtaking experience of singing “Crown Him with Many Crowns” during our Ascension Day Service while the choir sings a descant. My spine literally tingles at the thrill.

I always counted it a shame that so few Christians take time to remember the Ascension of our Lord. Since Jesus' ascension happened 40 days after Easter, we observe it on a Thursday. I suppose that's the problem. Some pastors have transferred their Ascension Day service to Sunday so that more people will be aware.

Jesus' ascension into heaven is equivalent to His “Mission Accomplished Parade.” This is the day that He is welcomed back to His eternal home in paradise to sit at the Father's right hand. Everything that He sought to do has been done. God sent His Only-begotten Son so that we would not perish but have eternal life. What a day to celebrate!

Now He rules the world for the sake of the Church! We read in Ephesians 1:22-23, “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Prayer: 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. Amen.

Crown Him with Many Crowns Lutheran Service Book 525, Lutheran Worship 278, The Lutheran Hymnal 341



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
 Whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won Which now His brow a - dorn:
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match - less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
 down - ward bend their won - d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
 Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
 The wondrous name of Love.
 Crown Him with many crowns
 As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
 For He is king of all.

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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