



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

May 17, 2015



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

Today is Ascension Sunday, and “that means that it is a day of great joy
for all who believe that Christ rules the world and our lives.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Letters and Papers from Prison

Heidelberg Catechism (Questions 46 and 49, 1563 AD)

What do we mean by saying, “He ascended into heaven?”

*That Christ, while his disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth to heaven
and will be there for our good until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.*

How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

First, he pleads our cause in heaven in the presence of his Father.

*Second, we have our own flesh in heaven — a guarantee
that Christ our head will take us, his members, to himself in heaven.*

*Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee.
By the Spirit’s power we make a goal of our lives, not earthly things,
but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand.*

HE REIGNS IN GLORY! ALLELUIA!

BRASS AND ORGAN PRELUDE:

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” arr. Tim Zimmerman
Samuel Metzger, organ

CHORAL INTROIT: “God Is Gone Up” Gerald Finzi
Text from Psalm 47

God is gone up with a triumphant shout!
The Lord with sounding trumpets’ melodies,
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise:
Sing praises out, sing praises out,
Unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors,
They sing, and let the King of Glory enter in.

The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 47:5-8 (NIV)D. Todd Erickson

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.**

✦HYMN OF CHRIST’S ASCENSION:

No. 289 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

So when they had come together, they asked him,
“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons
that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”**

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold,
two men stood by them in white robes, and 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.”**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

HE REIGNS IN MERCY! ALLELUIA!

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty Father,
You raised Jesus and crowned Him Lord of all.
Yet, we acknowledge our reluctance to surrender
the throne of our hearts to such an exalted King.
We confess that we have not set our minds on heavenly things
by allowing the false values, priorities, and commitments
of this world to drive our decisions.
We ask You to forgive and transform us
so that we delight to serve our ascended King
who rules the world and is head of His church,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON I John 2:1-2

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

✦HYMN OF CHRIST’S REIGN: No. 295 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” . . DIADEMATA

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "O Clap Your Hands" John Rutter
Text from Psalm 47

O clap your hands together, all ye people;
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high and to be feared;
He is the great King upon all the earth.

He shall subdue the people under us;
And the nations under our feet.
He shall choose out an heritage for us;
Even the worship of Jacob whom he loved.

God is gone up with a merry noise;
And the Lord with the sound of the trump.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God;
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing ye praises with understanding.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CORONATION

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.**

**O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.**

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✦ GREETINGS

HE REIGNS IN TRUTH! ALLELUIA!

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) W. Brian Lewis

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON John 7:25-36
(page 893 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;
**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON *The Illusive Jesus* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN OF CHRIST'S TRIUMPH:

"Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord"SINE NOMINE



1. Who shall as - cend the moun - tain of the Lord,
 2. One King a - lone, whose hands and heart are pure,
 3. He on - ly can as - cend to God's right hand
 4. Be - fore the clouds re - ceive the King on high,
 5. He shall as - cend the moun - tain of the Lord,



to search the mys - t'ry in the heav - en stored,
 one Ser - vant of the Lord with pur - pose sure,
 who first came down as his high mer - cy planned;
 a cross lifts up his form a - gainst the sky;
 the King of glo - ry, whose own blood out - poured



the knowl - edge of the Ho - ly One a - dored?
 can en - ter in that glo - ry to en - dure.
 true God and man has earth and heav - en spanned.
 the Fram - er of the worlds has come to die.
 paid that dear price that mer - cy did af - ford.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Carillon-Sortie" Henri Mulet

♠Indicates congregation standing

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