

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Ascension Sunday, May 17, 2026**



Jesus' ascension to Heaven depicted by John Singleton Copley in *Ascension* (1775)

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. Matthew 28:19, 20

CP 405 Alleluia#1

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.*

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.*

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.
And also with you.
May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.
Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 47*Refrain: God has gone up with a shout.*

47:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

47:3 He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

47:4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

47:5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

47:6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

47:7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

47:8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

47:9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

A Reading from Acts 1:1-11

1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach

1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

1:3 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.

1:4 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;

1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

1:8 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."

1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

1:11 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 399 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and nourish us with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
eternal now be given,
to Spirit and to Word,
who reign in highest heaven:
our ever faithful God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

A Reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason

1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers,

1:17 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,

1:18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

1:20 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,

1:21 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.

1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 374 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,
thou on earth our food, our stay:
alleluia! here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest:
thou on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:44-53

24:44 Then he 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

24:46 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

24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

24:49 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."

24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

24:51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

24:52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

24:53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 1650898 This Kingdom

1 Jesus God's righteousness revealed
The Son of Man the Son of God
His kingdom comes
Jesus redemption's sacrifice
Now glorified now justified
His kingdom comes

2 Jesus the expression of God's love
The grace of God the Word of God
Revealed to us
Jesus God's holiness displayed
Now glorified now justified
His kingdom comes

Chorus

***And this kingdom will know no end
And its glory shall know no bounds
For the majesty and power
Of this kingdom's King has come
And this kingdom's reign
And this kingdom's rule
And this kingdom's power and authority
Jesus God's righteousness revealed***

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven.
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Lord Jesus we listen to your words today which call for us to live in a different way. Help us to be conscious of our thoughts and the feelings in our hearts and minds and how they can become hurtful words and wrongful deeds. By your Holy Spirit cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and lead us into right thinking and loving actions as we bring our petitions to you saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer

We pray that the way in which we live would reflect our Christian calling and work with our family and friends, the way we spend our money and all of the different parts of our lives. We pray for your church:

- The Anglican Church of Papua New *Guinea*
- Diocese of Saskatoon: the Rt. Rev. Chad McCharles, Bishop.
- St. George, Fort Saskatchewan: Regula Brandle, Rector; Kathy Prout, Office Administrator. –
- Buyé Synod Office: Daniel Bizimana, Bible College Director; Nehemie Mbonyimpano, Diocesan Typist; Noel Ntamavukiro, Gender-Based Violence and Peace and Reconciliation Officer.
- the people and the community of the Frog Lake First Nation.
- Diocese of Edmonton and Bishop Stephen.
- for St. Peter's and her ministry team of Arthur, Sandra, Alison, Emily and Jorge; our vestry, treasurer, readers and intercessors, and all who give of their time and talents and treasures to serve you.

May our fellowship with one another on Sundays be an occasion in which we are encouraged and equipped to make a difference in our world. Give us courage to be bold in our witness to the good news of the Gospel. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

As you have welcomed us, may we seek out others that more may be blessed with the knowledge of your unfailing love. We pray for those troubled or in need. Give to us peace which comes from trusting in your loving care. We trust in your promises that you know the deepest parts of our souls and understand our every need. Therefore we offer to you everything which causes us to worry, knowing that you are with us no matter what situations we may face. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We think today of those who are facing or undergoing medical treatment, those who are fearful of test results, those who are sick and long to be well. We offer up to you those who have asked for our prayers: Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine and little Emilio..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy and family..... Louise B..... Sandra A..... Melody..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone.

Be their constant companion, guard and protect them, set your angels to watch over them and may they know the power of your healing touch. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord God we are mindful that you have promised to us that beyond the trials of this world you have prepared good things which no eye can see. So set our hearts beyond the temporary things of this world, that we might live in an awareness of your heavenly country to which we all belong. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We remember those who have died, and we pray that with them, we might be united in that place beyond the time and tears of this world and know the joy of living in your presence. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Merciful God,
 you have prepared for those who love you
 riches beyond imagination.
 Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
 that we, loving you above all things,
 may obtain your promises,
 which exceed all that we can desire;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 476 God You Have Caused to be Written

1 God you have caused to be written your word for our learning;
grant us that, hearing, our hearts may be inwardly burning,
Give to us grace, that in your Son we embrace life, all its glory discerning.

2 Now may our God give us joy, and all peace in believing
all things were written in truth for our thankful receiving,
As Christ did preach, through all the world love must reach; grant us each day love's
achieving.

3 Lord, should the powers of the earth and the heavens be shaken,
grant us to see you in all things, our vision awaken.
Help us to see, though all the earth cease to be, your truth shall never be shaken.

The Dismissal

*Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with
you always, to the close of the age. Matthew 28:19, 20*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.