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THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 9, 2024

HYMN – 470 “Like the Golden Sun Ascending”

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

M: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,

C: **and the day is almost over.**

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: **and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

HYMN OF LIGHT page 216

PRAYER

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 141 - “Let My Prayer Rise Before You” (page 217)

C: **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

M: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the

Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PSALM 47 on page 47

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

READING – Ephesians 4: 7-16

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

GOSPEL – Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these

things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

HYMN – 474 “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”-

SERMON – Luke 24:44-53

“I Am With You Always”

SONG OF MARY (page 220)

OFFERING

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, let give thanks to the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. be our shield and strength, O Lord

C: Amen.

PRAYERS

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING

M: ♪ Let us praise the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

M: ♪ The grace of our Lord ✝ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: ♪ Amen.

HYMN - 496 “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”