

Ascension of Our Lord

May 24, 2020

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together, **Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



Gathering Hymn - Crown Him with Many Crowns

Verse 1

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Verse 2

Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born, whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn; fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem, the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

Verse 3

Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side, rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

Verse 4

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Verse 5

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Children's Message

First Reading: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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."⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: The Word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

A reading from the Holy Gospel... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke writes: 'In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

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 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements / Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Sending Song - Holy Spirit

Verse 1

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close. No thing can compare; You're our living hope.
Your Presence.

Verse 2

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves, where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone,
in Your Presence Lord.

Chorus

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here; Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for, to be overcome by Your Presence Lord. Your presence, Lord.
(see next page)

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Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for, to be overcome by Your Presence Lord.
Your presence, Lord. Your Presence, oh God, how we love Your Presence, Lord.

Bridge

Let us become more aware of Your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness.
Let us become more aware of Your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness, Lord.

Chorus

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here; Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for, to be overcome by Your Presence Lord.

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May, 2020

The May issue of the STAR is ready, and the June STAR is coming soon. Copies will be available in online or in the Shooting Star box outside the church entry. June STAR entries are due this weekend, May 24th. Also check www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With Gov. Whitmer’s stay-at-home order now extended through June 12th and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different “phases” of safety regarding gatherings, etc, Bethlehem is working on plans to **hopefully start some sort of gatherings and/or worship sometime in June (note: this is an update from our information in the May STAR.)** We are exploring plans but have not yet settled in on a date to resume gathering. Safety is our primary concern. Details will be sent out as we get closer, and we give thanks always for your support, understanding and prayers.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with new DVDs for April and May virtual church services and several paper publications, including the May STAR.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is going virtual!!! Because of all the COVID-19 precautions and changes, BLC joins other churches in altering our VBS plans. **Introducing "Bible Stories" each Monday during the summer.** Plans are now fully underway, so let Annie know if you are interested in helping out this summer or registering a child. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information, please contact Annie Slaubaugh at annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org

Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara) pray that you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in person and look forward to being able to worship and have fellowship together.



Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th at 10:00 am.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM* (*or Webex, as we test out our conferencing software) continues. We start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 10:45am on Sundays and 7:45pm on Wednesdays. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom/Webex information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email is sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom/Webex Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.



To login to our online ministry sessions, you can type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided via email. **You may need to have the ZOOM or Webex app installed on your device. We now have the ability for you to dial into simply the audio portion on a landline.**

"Zoom* Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is "Luke and Acts ToGather" and whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet... which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about. *Please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.* In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be emailed out the day before the Bible Study. Contact Pastor Paul if you would like the login sent to you.