

Victorious!

Sermon Series for
the Season of Easter



The Seventh Sunday of Easter

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

VICTORIOUS!

*A Victory to Share with
All People*

Today's Worship

Forty days ago, the darkness of Lent was dispelled by the light of Easter. For forty days, the Church has cried, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" But forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he departed from his disciples and was enthroned in glory in heaven. From heaven he rules all things as our Lord and King. Today we celebrate the day he ascended ("went up") to glory. But he promised not to leave his disciples alone. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. They waited ten more days, and then on the Festival of Pentecost ("fiftieth day") they saw Jesus' promise made good. Next Sunday, we will celebrate that 50th day, the day of Pentecost. While Jesus leaving the visible presence of his disciples might seem like a loss, Jesus was ascending back to heaven, because he was victorious, having conquered sin, death, and hell, the work of salvation completed. And that means we're victorious, too! That's the best good news, a victory we want to share with all people!

The Season of Easter

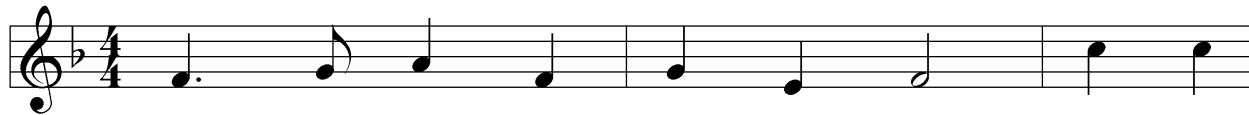
The Easter season is 50 days long and consists of 8 Sundays: from Easter to Pentecost. The Sundays of Easter remind us that Easter is more than just one day on the calendar. Instead, it is a continued celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and his victory over Satan.



OPENING HYMN

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Christian Worship (Red) 175



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered
loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious
vail - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!
to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.
lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain
Partners in your endless reign,
There your face unclouded view,
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS (77 77) Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221, adapt.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

C: And also with you.

INTROIT

M: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

M: How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C: He has set his glory above the heavens.

M: For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C: He is exalted far above all gods.

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

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

M: The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

C: He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

M: The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

C: A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

M: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

C: His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, since we have been raised with Christ let us look up with confidence to him, who is now ascended and sits at the right hand of God in glory and power.

C: He is able to save us completely when we come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for us.

M: Let us come before our God, then, in humble honesty in regard to our sin and in grateful expectation in regard to his forgiveness.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, we know we only deceive ourselves if we say we have no sin. In all honesty, we must confess that we have sinned and deserve condemnation. But you have placed your name on us in Holy Baptism. You have declared us to be your own. You invite us to confess our sins, trusting in your Son, our Savior Jesus. Hear our prayer, Father, and hear the intercession of your ascended Son. Grant us pardon and peace in him.

M: Hear the Good News again! The Son of God was delivered over to death for your sins and was raised again for your justification. In his name and with his authority, I say to you: You are forgiven. Now, live new lives in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Since we have been raised with Christ, let us set our minds on things above, not on earthly things. Then we will have the full measure of his joy within us.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

RESPONSE

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Christian Worship (Red) 341 vs. 1, 4



① Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his
② Crown him the Lord of love— Be - hold his hands and
③ Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the
④ Crown him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a -



throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All
side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In
grave And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For
bove; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The



mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and
beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the
those he came to save. His glo - ries now we
won - drous name of Love. Crown him with man - y



sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him
sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward
sing Who died and rose on high, Who died e -
crowns As thrones be - fore him fall; Crown him, ye



as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY*

M: Let us pray.

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.



Prayer Note

The Venerable Bede was an English monk who lived around 700 AD. Known as "the Teacher of the Middle Ages," Bede's best known contribution is the system of dating events by years before or after Christ. Bede died in 735 AD on the Feast of the Ascension, and the words he spoke on his deathbed serve as the Prayer of the Day for the Festival of the Ascension of our Lord. The words themselves flow from the great ascension texts. The prayer sets the tone for the Sunday, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and His Work on Pentecost. Today we see that Christ rules all things for his Church.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 1:1-11

You Will Be My Witnesses

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 47

Setting by Steven Rhode, 2016

The Wittenberg Psalter

The cantor will sing the refrain through once, the congregation will repeat the refrain, and sing all subsequent refrains.

Refrain

Clap your hands, all you na - tions; shout to God with cries of joy.

Cantor:

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

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

Refrain (All)

Cantor:

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.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain (All)

Silence for meditation

M: Lord Jesus, your Father raised you on high, seated you at his right hand, and appointed you to be head over everything for the sake of the Church. Gather the elect from all nations into your Church and make them a holy people to praise and adore you, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-4

Set Your Hearts on Things Above

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The Ascension of Christ

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. ⁴⁹I 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." ⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



GOSPEL RESPONSE

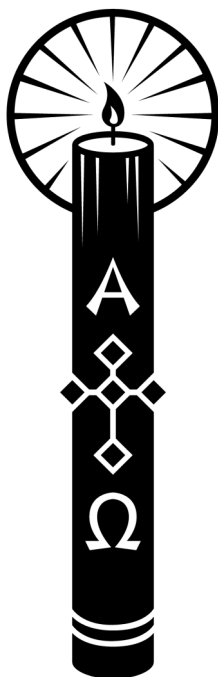
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Christian Worship (Red) 171 vs. 1,3,6

(Hymn printed on next page)

Worship Note

During the singing of the Gospel Response, the Paschal Candle (the large candle in the front of church which has been burning during the Sundays since Easter) is extinguished to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with his Church in bodily form, but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory. This does not imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for he promised, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20). Wherever his Word and Sacraments are, there Jesus is truly present. The extinguishing of the Paschal candle helps us to remember that Jesus does not himself carry the gospel in Word and Sacraments to the world, but has appointed us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:20). With Jesus' power and presence, we are indeed witnesses of grace.





① A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through -
 ② The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up - on the
 ③ To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 ④ "You see him now, as - cend - ing high Up to the
 ⑤ Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un -
 And with his fol - low - ers they see Their Lord as -
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see Re - turn - ing
 Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we Shall praise your



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 name e - ter - nal - ly. 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! 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!

⑥ O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to you let earth accord.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (888 888 with Alleluias) *Ausserlesene, Catholische, Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln,
 1623, alt.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Christian Worship (Red) 169



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -
Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend
Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the
re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, abr., alt.
Tune: HYMN TO JOY (87 87 D) Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, alt.

Text: Acts 1:1-11

Bold City, Bold Witnesses

SERMON RESPONSE

We Will Glorify

Worship & Praise Songbook (Purple) 154

The image shows a musical score for the song "We Will Glorify". It consists of three staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are indicated above the staff lines. The lyrics are: "1 We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will 2 Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will 3 He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, he is 4 Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le - glo - ri - fy the Lamb; we will glo - ri - fy the bow be - fore his throne; we will wor - ship him in Lord of all who live; he is Lord a - bove the lu - jah to the Lamb; hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM. righ - teous - ness, we will wor - ship him a - lone. u - ni - verse, all praise to him we give. Lord of lords, who is the great I AM."

OFFERTORY

Victory can receive offerings electronically through our secure website: victorylutheran.org/giving/

Your continued offerings are crucial for our gospel ministry to continue moving forward. Please consider using the online giving option, mailing a check, or dropping off your offering at the church!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

M: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for the world.

C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

M: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for you coming again in glory.

C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

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.



FINAL HYMN

Draw Us to Thee

Christian Worship (Red) 170



1 Draw us to thee, For then shall we Walk in
2 Draw us to thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us
3 Draw us to thee; Oh, grant that we May walk
4 Draw us to thee That al - so we Thy heav'n -
5 Draw us to thee Un - ceas - ing - ly; In - to



thy steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where
de - part with glad - ness That we may be For -
the road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest
ly bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where
thy king - dom take us. Let us for - 'er Thy



thou art gone To be with thee, dear Sav - ior.
ev - er free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
we should stray And from thy paths be driv - en.
sin and hell No more can vex our spir - it.
glo - ry share; Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642–99; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: ACH GOTT UND HERR (447 447) *As hymnodus sacer*, Leipzig, 1625, alt.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Victorious!

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with his favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.



Parents' Preview for May 31st

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a prayer, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service next week!

Refrain from "Hail Thee Festival Day"

Christian Worship (Red) 179

PENTECOST

179

Hail Thee, Festival Day

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be
hal - lowed for - ev - er, Day when the Ho - ly
Ghost shone in the world with his grace.