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**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Ascension**  
**May 17, 2026**

**Opening Hymn #216**  
***On Christ's Ascension I Now Build***

1. On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of mine ascension;  
This hope alone has ever stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the head is, there full well  
I know his members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.

2. Since He returned to claim his throne,  
Great gifts for men obtaining,  
My heart shall rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts shall ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.

3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Thine ascension,  
That I may ever walk with Thee,  
Adorning Thy redemption;  
And then, when all my days shall cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.

**Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

### **Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis**

♪ Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:

Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **The First Lesson – Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>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.”

**Psalm of the Day- Psalm 47**  
**WS p. 32**

*Antiphon – Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great  
are the works of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all | peoples!\*

**Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!**

<sup>2</sup>For the Lord, the Most High, is | to be feared,\*

**a great king over | all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples | under us,\*

**and nations un- | der our feet.**

<sup>4</sup>He chose our heritage | for us,\*

**the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,\*

**the Lord with the sound of a | trumpet.**

<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing | praises!\*

**Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the King of | all the earth;\*

**sing praises | with a psalm!**

<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the | nations;\*

**God sits on his | holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>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 ex- | alted!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

*Antiphon – Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great  
are the works of the Lord.*

## **The Second Lesson – Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of

wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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 one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### **Verse of the Day – Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b**

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.

### **The Gospel – Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**P:** Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

## **The Alleluia**

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Confession of Faith** ***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**Born of the Virgin Mary,**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**Was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**And is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**The forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body,**

**And the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Hymn of the Day #737 WS**

### ***Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels***

1. Up through endless ranks of angels,

Cries of triumph in His ears,

To His heav'nly throne ascending,

Having vanquished all their fears,

Christ looks down upon His faithful,

Leaving them in happy tears.

2. Death-destroying, life restoring,  
Proven equal to our need,  
Now for us before the Father  
As our Brother intercede;  
Flesh that for our world was wounded,  
Living, for the wounded plead!

3. To our lives of wanton wand'ring  
Send Your promised Spirit guide;  
Through our lives of fear and failure  
With Your pow'r and love abide;  
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,  
To an endless Eastertide.

4. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Oh, to see the Father's face!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

### **Sermon Text – Luke 24:44-53**

#### **Sermon**

***The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in  
His Church on Earth***

#### **Offertory**

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O Lord, Your Son has ascended to sit at Your right hand until You make all enemies His footstool. Fix our eyes on Him, ruling in the midst of His enemies, that we may have no fear of them but abide in His peace.

**1. All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine,  
Didst yield the glory that of right was Thine,  
That in our darkened hearts Thy grace might shine. Alleluia!**

P: Merciful God, You have put all things under Jesus' feet and given Him as head to the Church. Have mercy on the congregations where You gather Your people. Give Your pastors wisdom and insight to hold fast to the message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Open the ears of all who hear, that we may rejoice to be Christ's Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**2. Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;  
By Thee the outcast and the poor were sought;  
And by Thy death was God's salvation wrought. Alleluia!**

P: Heavenly Father, Your Son fulfilled everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. Open our minds to understand the Scriptures, that we may grow in faith, wisdom and knowledge of Christ. Bless our homes as we await the resurrection. Be the companion and consolation of those who live in solitude. Strengthen husbands and wives, that their love would exemplify the love between Christ and His Church. Bless parents and children as they gather around Your Word.

**3. Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,  
Who wast a servant that we might be free,  
Humbling Thyself to death on Calvary. Alleluia!**

P: Almighty God, You have raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and

authority and power and dominion. Guide all such authorities on earth, that they govern wisely, operate with integrity and maintain peace after Your good pleasure.

**4. Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, Thou  
Art high exalted o'er all creatures now,  
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow. Alleluia!**

P: God of mercy, You have sworn and will not change Your mind that Christ is our High Priest forever. Remember those who despair of forgiveness or of cleansing from guilt and shame. Console them with the certainty of unending grace in the name of Jesus.

**5. Let ev'ry tongue confess with one accord,  
In heav'n and earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
And God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia!**

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for the sake of ***\*please stand\**** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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.**

### **The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **Closing Hymn #218 (v. 1-3, 5)**

#### ***See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph***

1. See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph;  
See the King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,  
To His heavenly palace gate!  
Hark, the choirs of angel voices  
Joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted  
To receive their heavenly King.

2. Who is this that comes in glory  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,--  
He hath gained the victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose,  
He hath vanquished sin and Satan;  
He by death hath spoiled His foes.

3. While He lifts His hands in blessing,  
He is parted from His friends;

While their eager eyes behold Him,  
He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him,  
Preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated  
To His everlasting home.

5. Thou hast raised our human nature  
On the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heavenly places,  
There with Thee in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne.  
Mighty Lord, in Thine ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

### **Silent Prayer**

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