

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

We Find Courage in Christ's Ascension

May 17, 2020

Pastor Mark Voss

OPENING

P: O Lord, teach us your ways,

All: **That we may walk in your truth.**

P: You comfort and help us day by day.

All: **We trust your loving care.**

P: You are the King of heaven and earth.

All: **We give you praise and thanks. Alleluia!**

PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you invite us to pray and promise that where two or three come together in your name, there you are with us. Answer our prayers, and fulfill our desires according to your wisdom and love. Strengthen us in the knowledge of your truth, and grant us life everlasting. Amen.

OPENING HYMN – *“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”*

CW 175 vv 1, 2, 5 & 6

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Hail the day that sees him rise To his throne above the skies!

Christ the Lamb for sinners giv'n. Re-ascends his native heav'n.

There the glorious triumph waits: Lift your heads, eternal gates.

He has conquered death and sin; Take the King of glory in.

Still for us he intercedes; His prevailing death he pleads.

He, the first of all our race, Near himself prepares a place.

**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.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

ALL: We thank you, Lord God the Father, that you have given us your one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have born in your sacred body all our sins, and by your blood have blotted out all our transgressions.

We thank you, Lord the Holy Spirit, that you have created in our hearts true faith, and that we trust nothing else for our salvation, except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

P: O God, grant us your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven through the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by your Holy Spirit, that in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may put off sin and never forsake our Lord Jesus Christ, until we see him face to face in life eternal.

ALL: We ask it all in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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. Amen.

God's Word

Acts 1:1-11 – Jesus promises to return for us

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.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia

John 17:1-11 – Jesus promises to protect us

¹“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: In a world that has difficulty believing in the one true God, but is so ready to believe that our universe happened by some unknown accident, what do you believe?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: In a society that so quickly rejects what God did through his Son, what do you believe?

All: 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.

P: While many put their trust in things or people that they make into their gods, what do you believe that Jesus did that proves he has conquered death and is true God just as he said?

All: 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.

P: Those who refuse to trust the Lord are without hope. What do you believe that gives you hope?

All: 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.

SERMON SONG – “Day by Day”

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Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, Bring - ing
Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me Strength to
Oh, what joy to know that you are near me When my



com - fort to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
serve and wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
bur - dens grow too great to bear; Oh, what joy to know that you will



send me Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di -
guide me O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day, I will
hear me When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by

Continued on next page



- vine, be-yond all mor-tal meas-ure, Brings to naught the bur-dens of my
fear no e - vil of the mor-row; I will trust in your en-dur-ing
day, no mat-ter what be - tide me, You will hold me ev - er in your
quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure, Where, at
grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row; Till in
hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will
last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
glo - ry I be - hold your face.
reach at last the prom-ised land.

SERMON SERIES
PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

When Is it Right to Fight

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3, 8

¹ There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S LESSON

P: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “Christ High Ascended”

CW 558

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**Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated, Throned and exalted,
Victory complete, Death's dread dominion finally defeated
We are his witnesses.**

**Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing, Who on his
Chosen lifted hands in blessing, Sends forth his servants =
Still in faith confessing We are his witnesses.**

**Christ, who in dying won for us salvation, Lives now the
Firstborn of the new creation; To win disciples out of ev'ry nation,
We are his witnesses.**

**Christ in his splendor, all dominions gaining, Christ with his
People evermore remaining, Christ to all ages gloriously reigning
We are his witnesses.**

**As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving, Faith in his presence
Strengthen our believing; Filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving,
We are his witnesses.**



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*For everything there is a season, and a
time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*