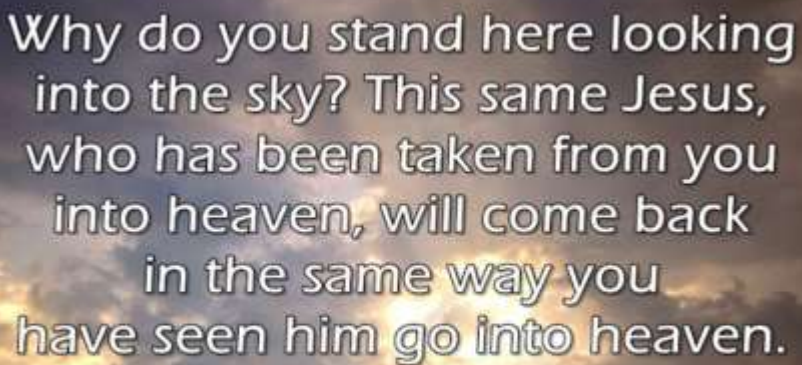


7th Sunday of Easter
(Ascension Observed)

May 16, 2021



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.

Acts 1:11

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
901 Cornwall Crescent
Dawson Creek, BC

AS WE GATHER

“I’ll see you soon!” So says the parent, spouse, or friend leaving for an errand or a short trip, with certainty that time together will soon be had again. “I’ll see you soon!” so says Jesus as He departs and ascends into heaven. And though it has not been hours or days or even weeks, rather nearly two thousand years later, we still hold to the certainty of His promise that we shall see Him again soon at His time. Until that day, though, we are wise to not stay looking up into the sky, as the disciples began to do long ago. Rather, we heed His mission to make disciples and keep ourselves prepared for that day. Even as we long to see Him soon, we know that Jesus is enough for us every day, and we take comfort in the fact that our ascended Lord Jesus remains present with us now, in this life, even amid troubles and trials. We hold on to His promises by the faith given, and we anticipate that joyful day when He will come again in the same way He was taken up into heaven.

HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Vs 1

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

READING *Acts 1:1–11*

Reader: Our First Reading, the account of Christ’s ascension, from Acts, the first chapter:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many

days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked Him,

People: **“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

Reader: He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 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.”

HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Vs 2

Reader: 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

People: **“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.”**

HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Vs 3

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 47:2–3; 124:8

Pastor: For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

People: **He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor : Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

People: **We confess before God and before one another that we have failed to live in the image of Christ. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: We stand guilty before our Father in heaven and are in need of His forgiveness.

People: **Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: Because of and in Christ's continued presence through all our days,
People: **renew us and strengthen us for Christlike living and service in Your kingdom until the day when we ascend to the heavenly realm where we shall be in the presence of Christ forever and ever.**

HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Vs 5

Pastor: Jesus Christ, your ascended Lord, has heard your confession, and He alone has the power to forgive all sin. His presence and grace are enough for us in this time and eternally. God has promised His merciful forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus, to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and finally bring you to live with Him forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” Vs 6

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Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise *Glory to God* Page 155

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

Alleluia and Verse Page 156

Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-53

Sermon

Hymn # 492 – On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build

CREED *Nicene Creed* **Page 158**

Prayer of the Church

Offertory **Page 159**

Service of the Sacrament – Page 160

Holy, Holy, Holy, Page 161

The Words of Our Lord Page 162

Lamb of God Page 163

Benedicamus and Benediction Page 166

Hymn # 525 – Crown Him with Many Crowns 1,3,5

Live Stream Service Ends and we gather outside to receive.

Post communion Canticle Page 164

You may tune your car radio to **91.1 FM** to listen to music during the outdoor distribution of the Lord’s Supper.

Announcements

Coming Up:

Wed. May 19 7:00pm Spiritual Support Group Meeting

Sun. May 23 11:00am Live Streamed Service

Beginning in June we will have outdoor services at the church (weather permitting). The service will be lead outside the front doors. The congregation is invited to bring a lawn chair and blanket to sit on the grass, or participate in the service from your car. Pastor will change the voice message on the answering machine and post a notice on our website if the outdoor service is cancelled, in which case it will be live streamed and transmitted on FM radio to the parking lot.

Thanks to:

All of you, for your service and prayers of support!

Dorothy Bartlett for recording our hymns for today.

Ric and Andrew as Elders on duty.

Our Altar Guild

Vawn, Elissa and Caslyn for helping with the live stream service.

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