

Service Notes:

1. This service is designed to help introduce several *Christian Worship Supplement* hymns. Some hymns use the adult choir, children's choir, and/or soloist to help. Other hymns use *Christian Worship* tunes. Consider using a variety of instrumentalists to assist.
2. A short devotion accompanies each lesson, emphasizing various truths of Jesus' ascension.
3. It may be wise to choose to use fewer new hymns than those suggested here. Substitute familiar *Christian Worship* hymns as desired.
4. All prayers except "The Bidding Prayer" are from *Christian Worship: Altar Book* or *Christian Worship: Occasional Services*. "The Bidding Prayer" was written by Steven Rhode.

## The Ascension of Our Lord

*Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus returned in glory to his Father in heaven. He now rules over all things for the benefit of his people. His ascension assures us that his work of redemption is complete and that he will return to earth one day to bring us to himself in eternal glory. Through Scripture, song and prayer, God's people celebrate and live the victory of our ascended Lord.*

### OPENING HYMN: 175 "Hail the Day that See Him Rise"

*Small group choir: st. 1-3; congregation: st. 4-6*

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### THE BIDDING PRAYER

M: In solemn and holy awe we have gathered together as a family of believers to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus. With the disciples of old, let us ponder the words that our Savior spoke on that hilltop long ago and the meaning of Christ's departure from this sinful world to the throne of glory at the right hand of God the Father. With the saints of old and the holy angels let us offer to our triumphant Savior our hymns and songs of adoration and praise. With the believers of every generation we look forward to Christ's return. But first let us pray for the world that God so dearly loves, for the Church in this place and everywhere, and especially for those who do not know the Lord Jesus that the Holy Spirit would bring them to the knowledge of their salvation, in the words Jesus himself taught us:

### 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.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 47 (CW, pg or , CWS, pg )**

### **PSALM PRAYER**

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.

## **A CELEBRATION OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG**

### **LESSON**

**Acts 1:1-11**

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach<sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed himself to these men 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>a</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.<sup>11</sup> “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.”

### **HYMN: 747 “There Is a Redeemer”**

*Choir: st. 1-2; congregation: st. 3*

### **LESSON**

**Colossians 2:6-15**

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,<sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**HYMN: 746 “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” (bulletin pg 13)**

**LESSON**

**Ephesians 1:16-23**

<sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**HYMN: 714 “The Lamb”**

*Choir: st. 1,2,4; congregation: st. 3,5*

**LESSON**

**Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup> He 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.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I 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.”

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

**HYMN: 751 “Word of God, When All Was Silent”**

**LESSON**

**John 14:1-6**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**HYMN: 752 “In Christ Alone”**

*Choir: st. 1-2; congregation: st. 3-4*

**LESSON**

**John 15:1-8**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**HYMN: 761 “Christ Is with Me”**

*Children: st. 1-2; congregation: st. 3*

**LESSON**

**Revelation 21:1-5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**HYMN: 728 “Jerusalem the Golden”**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: 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 give 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.

**C: Amen.**

**EVENING PRAYERS**

M: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord

**C: Amen.**

M: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love’s sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

S

**BLESSING**

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

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: 171 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”**

