

# VESPERS OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: O Jesus Christ, almighty Son of God, You are no longer in humiliation here on earth, but are seated at the right hand of the Father, Lord over all things: We beseech You, send us Your Holy Spirit; give Your Church pious pastors, preserve Your Word, control and restrain the devil and all who would oppress us; mightily uphold Your kingdom, until all Your enemies have been put under Your feet, that we may hold the victory over sin, death, and

the devil; through You, who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

## *The Office of Vespers* *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 120*

Hymn of Invocation: *TLH 218, See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph*

**C: 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Now our heavenly Aaron enters With His blood within the veil;  
Joshua now is come to Canaan, And the kings before Him quail.  
Now He plants the tribes of Israel In their promised resting-place;  
Now our great Elijah offers Double portion of His grace.**

**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.**

**Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son,  
Dying, ris'n, ascending for us, Who the heavenly realm hath won.  
Glory to the Holy Spirit! To One God in Persons Three  
Glory both in earth and heaven, Glory, endless glory, be.**

Versicles: pp. 120

**P:** O Lord, open my lips.

**C:** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

**P:** Make hast, O God, to deliver me.

**C:** Make hast to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be: forevermore. Amen. Alleluia!**

Psalm 47

Tone 1



Antiphon: God has gone up with a shout, `alleluia!/  
The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
`alleluia!

Psalm: Oh, clap your hands, `all you peoples!/  
Shout to God with the `voice of triumph!

**<sup>2</sup>For the LORD Most `High is awesome;/ He is a great King o`ver all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will subdue the peo`ples under us,/ And the nations `under our feet.

<sup>4</sup>**He will choose our inher`itance for us,/ The excellence of Ja`cob 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 `understanding.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o`ver the nations;/ God sits on `His holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>The princes of the people have ga`thered together,/ The people of the God `of Abraham.

**For the shields of the earth `belong to God;/ He is great`ly exalted.**

Gloria Patri: **Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ And to `the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ And ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.**

Antiphon: God has gone up with a shout, `alleluia!/ The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
`alleluia!

### Old Testament: *2 Kings 2:5-15*

**P:** *In those days* the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” So he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent!” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!” So the two of them went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.” Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** **Thanks be to You, O Lord.**

Hymn: 389, *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*, sts. 1-4

**C: A Hymn of glory let us sing:  
New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascendeth to the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with His followers they see  
Jesus' resplendent majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To whom the angels, drawing nigh,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky? Alleluia! Alleluia!  
This is the Savior!" thus they say;  
"This is His noble triumph-day."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**"Again shall ye behold Him so  
As ye today have seen Him go, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In glorious pomp ascending high,  
Up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Epistle: *Acts 1:1-11*

**P:** The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was

taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** **Thanks be to You, O Lord.**

Hymn: *389, A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing, sts. 5-7*

**C:** **Oh, grant us thitherward to tend  
And with unwearied hearts ascend Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou,  
As is our faith, art seated now.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense  
Who art our future Recompense: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
So shall the light that springs from Thee  
Be ours through all eternity.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to Thee let earth accord, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Who art, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit One.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 16:14-20*

**P:** At that time Jesus appeared to the eleven as they sat at table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

**P:** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C:** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

Office Hymn: 392, *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

**C:** 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.

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 tho'ts shall ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.

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.

Sermon

Versicle & Magnificat: pp. 122-123

**P:** Let my prayers rise before You as incense:

**C:** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C:** My soul magnifies the Lord: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
For He has regarded: the low estate of His handmaiden:  
For, behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.  
For He that is mighty has done to me great things: and holy is His name.  
And His mercy is on those that fear Him: from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with His arm: He has scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.  
He has put down the mighty from their seats: and exalted those of low degree.  
He has filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy: as He spoke to our  
fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: forevermore. Amen.

Litany of the Ascension

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord, Have mercy upon us.**

Christe eleison.

**Christ, Have mercy upon us.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord, Have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, graciously hear us.**

O Jesus, King of Glory, who ascended up into heaven in the sight of Your disciples:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, seated in glory at the right hand of the Father:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, unto whom all power is given in heaven and in earth, whose kingdom shall have no end.

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, adored by all the angels of God;:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, the happiness of the blessed:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, able to save to the uttermost those that come unto God by You:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, who promises that whatever we ask in Your name, You will do it:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, who by the power of the Holy Spirit are supernaturally present in the Sacrament of the Altar:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, gone to prepare a place for us and who will come again in glory to judge the world:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O Jesus, who will receive Your own unto Yourself that they may be with You were You are:

**Have mercy upon us.**

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; by Your all-powerful intercession; by Your triumphant majesty and power:

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

That we who are risen with You may set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth;

that we may be holy and without blame before You in love;

that keeping Your commandments we may abide in Your love;

that through the power of the Comforter You would abide with us; that in You we may have peace;

that You would pour down Your Holy Spirit upon Your church:

**Hear us, good Lord.**

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**O Jesus, spare us.**

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**O Jesus, hear us.**

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**O Jesus, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.**

God is gone up with a shout. Alleluia!

**And the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia! Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (chanted)

Collects (spoken)

**P:** Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that just as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so may we also in heart and mind to heaven ascend and continually dwell with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

O King of Glory, Lord of hosts, who did this day ascend in triumph far above all heavens: we beseech You, leave us not comfortless, but send to us the Spirit of Truth, promised of the Father; In Your holy Name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Benedicamus & Benediction: p. 127

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: 391, *Lo, God to Heaven Ascendeth*

**C: Lo, God to heaven ascendeth! Throughout its regions vast  
With shouts triumphant blendeth The trumpet's thrilling blast:  
Sing praise to Christ the Lord; Sing praise with exultation,  
King of each heathen nation, The God of hosts adored!**

**With joy is heaven resounding Christ's glad return to see;  
Behold the saints surrounding The Lord who set them free.  
Bright myriads, thronging, come; The cherub band rejoices,  
And loud seraphic voices All welcome Jesus home.**

**From cross to throne ascending, We follow Christ on high  
And know the pathway wending To mansions in the sky.  
Our Lord is gone before; Yet here He will not leave us,  
But soon in heaven receive us And open wide the door.**

**Our place He is preparing; To heaven we, too, shall rise,  
With Him His glory sharing, Be where our Treasure lies.  
Bestir thyself, my soul! Where Jesus Christ has entered,  
There let thy hope be centered; Press onward toward the goal.**

**Let all our thoughts be winging To where Thou didst ascend,  
And let our hearts be singing: "We seek Thee, Christ, our Friend,  
Thee, God's exalted Son, Our Life, and Way to heaven,  
To whom all power is given, Our Joy and Hope and Crown."**