

## The Ascension of the Lord

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*Entrance Hymn.....Three Days*

1. Three days our world was broken; the Lord of life lay dead.  
“Take up your cross,” he told us who followed where he led.  
Would we now hang in torment with thieves on ev’ry side,  
our Passover shattered, our hope crucified?  
Three days we hid in silence, in bitter fear and grief.  
Three days we clung together where he had washed our feet.

2. Three days— and on the third day, the women came at dawn.  
His tomb, they said, was empty, his broken body gone.  
Who could believe their story? The dead do not arise,  
yet he walks among us, and with our own eyes  
we’ve seen him at this table; we’ve shared his bread and wine.  
Hearts burning bright within us, we’ve seen his glory shine.

3. Three days our world was broken and in an instant healed,  
God’s covenant of mercy in mystery revealed.  
Two thousand years are one day in God’s eternal sight,  
and yesterday’s sorrows are this day’s delight.  
Though still Christ’s body suffers, pierced daily by the sword,  
yet death has no dominion: the risen Christ is Lord!

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*First Reading.....Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them

by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for “the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him,  
“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”  
He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”  
When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, “Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

*Responsorial Psalm.....*.....Psalm 47:2-9

### **Response**

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands,  
shout to God with cries of gladness,  
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,  
is the great king over all the earth. R.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;  
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.  
Sing praise to God, sing praise;  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

For king of all the earth is God;  
sing hymns of praise.  
God reigns over the nations,  
God sits upon his holy throne. R.

*Second Reading.....Ephesians 1:17-23*

Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
resulting in knowledge of him.  
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,  
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,  
what are the riches of glory  
in his inheritance among the holy ones,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power  
for us who believe,  
in accord with the exercise of his great might,  
which he worked in Christ,  
raising him from the dead  
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,  
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,  
and every name that is named  
not only in this age but also in the one to come.  
And he put all things beneath his feet  
and gave him as head over all things to the church,  
which is his body,  
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

*Verse before the Gospel.....Matthew 28:19-20*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

*Gospel*.....Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.  
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.  
Then Jesus approached and said to them,  
“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

*Offertory Hymn*.....The Lord is my Light

1. The Lord is my light, my help, my salvation.  
Why should I fear?  
With God I fear no one.  
God protects me all my life.  
With the Lord what should I dread?

### **Refrain:**

The Lord is my light,  
the Lord is my help,  
the Lord is my salvation.

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord  
that I long for:

all of my days with God to be dwelling,  
gazing with awe at the beauty of God,  
and in wonder look on God's house.

3. I know I will live to see the Lord's goodness,  
now, in this life I'm sure I will see it.  
Trust in the Lord, be strong and be brave;  
wait in hope for God, our salvation.

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*Communion Hymn*.....I am the Living Bread

**Refrain:**

See this bread; take and eat and live in me.  
See this cup; take and drink, remember me.

1. I am the living bread  
come down from heaven.  
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
will live, will live forever.

2. I am the living bread;  
you shall not hunger.  
If you believe in me you shall not thirst,  
but live, but live forever.

3. I am the living bread  
risen among you.  
If you believe in me, though you die,  
you will live; you will live forever.

4. You are the living bread;  
life for the world.  
O Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Your words, they live forever.

Text: Based on John 6. Text and music © 1985, David Haas. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

*Recessional Hymn*.....America the Beautiful

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law.

3. O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine.

4. O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

Text: CMD; Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929. Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903.