

***Ascension Sunday***

**24<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M: God raised Christ from the dead, Alleluia!**

**All: and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.  
Alleluia!**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus *LHS 771***

- 1. Alleluia! sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark, the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
'Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood'.**
  
- 2. Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er,**

shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?

3. Alleluia! bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.
  
4. Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
as within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
here on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.
  
5. Alleluia! sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark, the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
'Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood'.

*Music: R.H. Prichard 1811-1887 (1855);*

*Words: William Chatterton Dix 1837-1898, alt. In the public domain*

*L:* Jesus said: repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations. Let us repent as we confess our sins to God our Father.

*C:* **We confess to you, almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and to each other, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.**

**Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

*M:* As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*C:* **Amen.**

*L:* God has gone up with a shout,

*C:* **Lord have mercy.**

*L:* Sing praises to God, sing praises;

*C:* **Christ have mercy.**

*L:* For God is King of all the earth;

*C:* **Lord have mercy.**

*M:* The Lord be with you,

*C:* **And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray that Christ will rule over all.  
Thank you, eternal Father, that your Son Jesus ascended to your right hand, to rule over all things as Lord.  
Keep your church in the unity that the Spirit gives, and bring all creation to submit to Christ as Lord.  
For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **First Reading – Acts 1:1-11**

#### *Jesus' ascension, promise and commission*

<sup>1</sup> 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 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. <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 water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and 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.”

*R:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23**

*Christ is the supreme Lord over all things*

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <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 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 his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ 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 name that is invoked, 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia.

Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has any power over him. Alleluia.

All: **Jesus said 'Go and make disciples of all nations; and I am with you always, to the end of the age.'**

### **Gospel Reading – Luke 24:44-53**

#### *Jesus commissions and blesses the disciples*

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to his disciples, “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 Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the 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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ,  
raised to live forever.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
thank you for fulfilling the Scriptures and returning to the  
Father.  
Fill us with the joy of your continual presence.  
Amen.**

**Hymn – Crown him with many crowns *LH 113***

- 1. Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own:  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king  
Through all eternity.**
  
- 2. Crown him the virgin's Son  
The God incarnate born,  
whose arm those crimson trophies won  
which now his brow adorn.  
Fruit of the mystic rose,  
yet of that rose the stem,  
the root whence mercy ever flows,  
the babe of Bethlehem.**

**3. Crown him the Lord of love.  
Behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, which visible above,  
in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their wond'ring eyes  
at mysteries so bright.**

**4. Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring,  
And lives that death may die.**

**5. Crown Him the Lord of heaven,  
Enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown Him the king  
to whom is given  
The wondrous name of Love:  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings,  
with many crowns,  
For He is king of all.**

*Music: G.J.Elvey 1816-1893 (1868);  
Words: Sts. 1,3: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894);  
Sts. 2,4,5: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903).*

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## Sermon

*All:* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again  
from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God,  
the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
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.

## Offering Song – He is Lord AT26

1. He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.

**Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**That Jesus Christ is Lord!**

*Words & Music: Anonymous*

**L:** Living God, your Son Jesus Christ  
at his ascension gave gifts to his church.  
Lead us, as members of his body on earth,  
to use the gifts we have received  
to do your will.

**All: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the church**

**All: 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.**

*M:* May Christ our exalted king  
pour on you his abundant gifts  
and bring you to reign with him in glory;  
  
Go in peace, to witness in the power of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*M:* The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour,  
† and give you peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing Song – Rejoice, the Lord is King**      *TIS 216*

- 1. Rejoice, the Lord is King;  
your Lord and King adore;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
and triumph evermore;**

*Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above:  
*Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

3. His kingdom cannot fail,  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:  
*Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

4. He sits at God's right hand,  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet:  
*Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

5. Rejoice in glorious hope;  
The Lord and judge shall come,

**and take his servants up  
to their eternal home:  
*Lift up your heart,  
lift up your voice.  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

*Music: Melody and bass by George Frederick Handel 1685-1759*

*Music by John W. Wilson*

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