

Song of Simeon

G In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser-vant now de -
 part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal-
 va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a
 light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo-ry of your peo-ple
 Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son [✠] and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Choir Anthem....."Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come" (CW 434:3)

Presiding MinisterPastor Mike Gehl, St. John, Wrightstown
 Guest PreacherPastor Andy Luehring, St. John, Woodville
 OrganistEmma Curtis, Trinity, Kaukauna

**All are invited to head downstairs to the fellowship
 hall to enjoy various desserts and refreshments.
 Please feel welcome to visit for as long as you wish.**

Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord

May 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm



Christ rules all things for his Church. In the early 700s AD, there lived an English churchman known to history as the Venerable Bede. He was the great teacher of the middle ages, the man who divided history into AD and BC, the first great historian of the English language and a devout man of God. On May 25, 735 AD, on the great Ascension Vigil, Bede finished his translation of the Gospel of St. John into Old English. Then, on that day of Ascension, he died. From his deathbed, the Teacher of the Middle Ages spoke the words that have become the Prayer of the Day on Ascension. This beautiful prayer sets the tone for the day, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and his work.

Handbells *“Joy and Elation”*

Opening Hymn..... *“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” (CW 175)*

Opening Responsive Verses

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

How majestic is the Lord’s name in all the earth!

He has set his glory above the heavens.

For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

He is exalted far above all gods.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my

dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from
e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are
yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Gospel Canticle

L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, **G** and guard us sleep -
ing; **L** that a - wake we may watch with Christ **G** and a -
sleep we may rest in peace.

Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

G Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal-owed be your
 name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
 earth as in heav - en. Give us to-day our

own fault, by my own grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (CW 169)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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 grant 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.

Amen.

First Lesson Esther 6:1-14 (EHV)

¹That night the king could not sleep. He told them to bring the chronicles, the record of the memorable events of his reign. These accounts were read to the king. ²They found the account about the incident when Mordecai had reported Bigthan and Teresh, the king's two eunuchs who controlled access to the entrance to the palace, and who had tried to assassinate King Xerxes. ³The king said, "What honor and recognition has been given to Mordecai for this?" Then the servants of the king, who were attending him, said, "Nothing has been done for him." ⁴The king said, "Who is in the court?" Just then Haman had come to the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. ⁵The king's servants said to him, "Look, Haman is standing in the court." The king said, "Have him come in." ⁶When Haman came in, the king said to him, "What should be done to honor the man with whom the king is pleased?" Haman said in his heart, "Whom is the king more pleased to honor than me?" ⁷Haman said to the king, "The man whom the king is pleased to honor ⁸should be clothed with garments that the king has worn. He should be given a horse on which the king has ridden and crowned with a crown that has been on the king's head. ⁹These clothes and this horse should be delivered by one of the highest ranking noblemen of the king. Let them clothe the man whom the king is pleased to honor, and let him ride on the horse in the public square of the city. Walking in

front of him they will proclaim: "This is what is done for a man whom the king is pleased to honor."
¹⁰The king said to Haman, "Hurry! Take the clothes and the horse just as you have said and do this for Mordecai the Jew who sits in the gatehouse of the king. Do not leave out a thing from whatever you have said."
¹¹Haman took the clothes and the horse, clothed Mordecai, had him ride through the public square of the city, and proclaimed before him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king is pleased to honor."
¹²Mordecai returned to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his home, mourning, with his head covered.
¹³Haman reported all this to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends. His advisors and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, whom you have begun to honor, is of Jewish descent, you will not overcome him. Instead, you will surely fall before him."
¹⁴While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and rushed Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Handbell Choir "Praise to the Lord"

Second Lesson Colossians 3:1-4 (EHV)

¹Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Verse of the Day Matthew 28:20b (EHV)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. "Surely I am with you always until the end of the age." Alleluia.

Gospel Luke 24:44-53 (EHV)

⁴⁴He said to them, "These are my words, which I spoke to 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Hymn of the Day "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (CW 171)

Sermon Acts 1:12-14 (EHV)

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The Life of Christ: The Sequel

Confession of Faith.....Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Creed (Sm. Cat.)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Hymn..... "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" (CW 173)

Prayer

The image shows musical notation for a prayer hymn in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "L Hear my prayer, O Lord. G Lis-ten to my cry. L Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye. G Hide me in the shad-ow of your wings. L In right-eous - ness I shall see you. G When I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy." The notation consists of five staves of music with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "L Hear my prayer, O Lord. G Lis-ten to my cry." The second staff continues: "L Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye. G Hide me". The third staff continues: "in the shad-ow of your wings. L In right-eous -". The fourth staff continues: "ness I shall see you. G When I a - wake, your". The fifth staff concludes: "pres - ence will give me joy." The music features a simple melody with some rests and a final cadence.