

the
ASCENSION

**Reaching Up, Reaching Out
Welcoming Everyone,
Serving in God's Love**

May 21, 2023
9:30 AM

Order of Worship

May 21, 2023

Two millennia ago, your Spirit sounded like a mighty wind and looked like dancing fire. Show us, Holy One, how you're revealing yourself today, what you sound like and where you're dancing.

Boldface type: The congregation speaks in unison

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Richard Warne, Organist

(arr. Miller)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

Let's get to work!

Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

HYMN

Praise to the Lord

#139 vs.1,4&5

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee, who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee. Ponder anew what the almighty can do, who with His love doth befriend thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

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God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, reminds us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Spirit of God
Sharon Holmes & Scott Bonhard

(Iverson)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:11-14

(Laddie Galang)

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

HYMN*For the Beauty of the Earth**

#92 vs.1-4

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight;

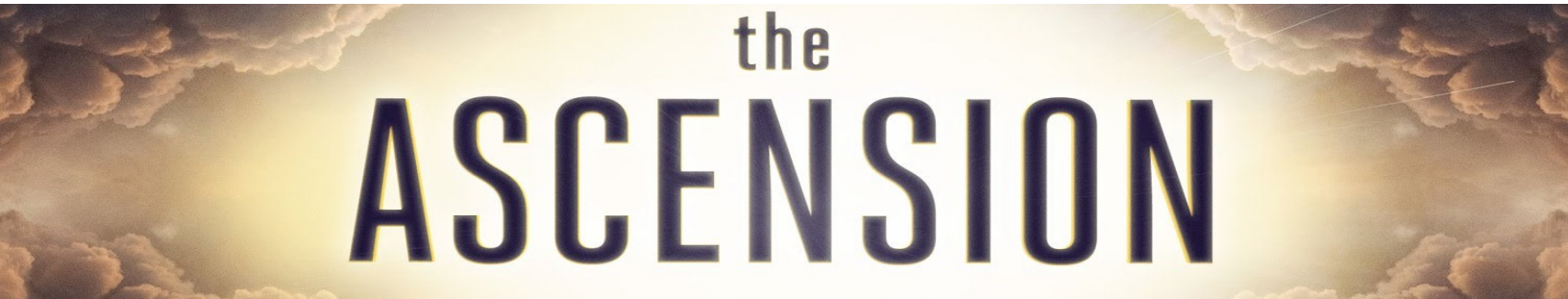
Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.



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The Acts Of The Apostles**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

The Ascension of Jesus

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, from the reading of the Scriptures, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

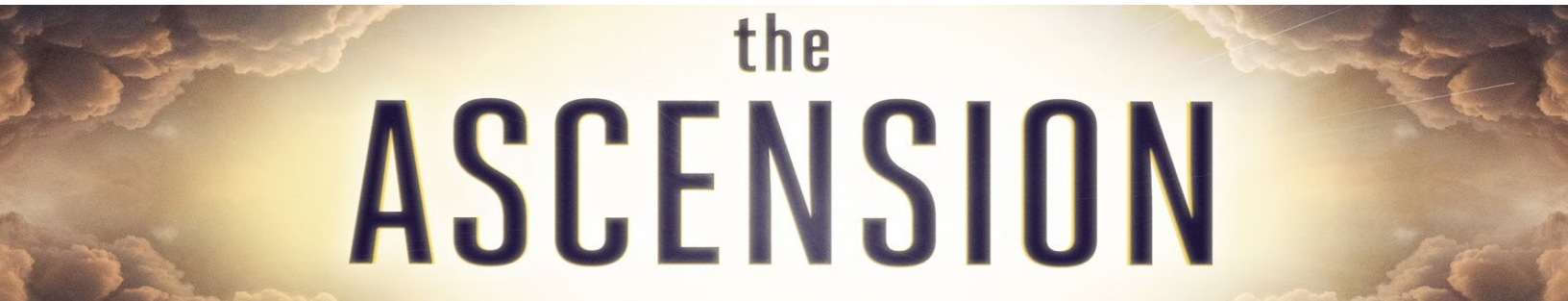
SERMON

Rev. Glenn Miller

RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

#496 vs.1

PASTORAL PRAYER**LORDS PRAYER****PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

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HYMN**My Hope Is Built**

#368 vs.1,2&4

1. My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not
trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean
on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand; all other
ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet
sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!

Refrain:
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other
ground is sinking sand; all other ground is
sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I
rest on his unchanging grace. In every
high and stormy gale, my anchor holds
within the veil.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand; all other
ground is sinking sand.

BLESSING**PEOPLES RESPONSE****Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place**

#328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His
grace, I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face, Surely the
presence of the Lord is in this place

POSTLUDE

In Christ There is No East or West

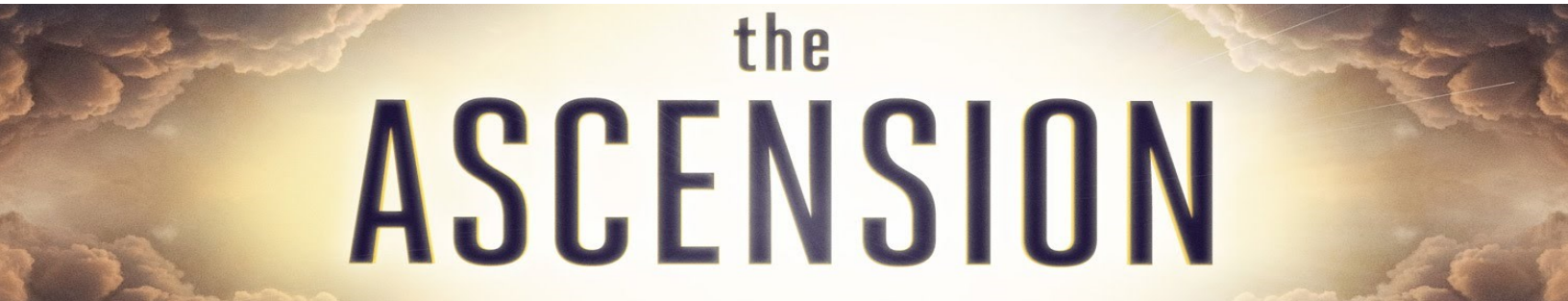
(arr. Young)

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Prayer Request

... For Rex and Sara Danford who both have COVID.

... from Hanne Booth, giving thanks for my daughter-n-law finally begging to get better from her ankle surgery on 3/9.



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Worship Leaders for Today

Worship Leader/Liturgist-

Laddie Galang

Cantor-

Sharon Holmes, Scott Bonhard,
Laddie Galang, Priscilla Capulong,
Scott Bonhard

A/V Tech-

Scott Andrews

Laguna Country Staff



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