

**Sunday, May 17th, 2026**

Ascension (White)

**The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1-11)**

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**Psalm 47 (sung)**

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

**The second reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (1:15-23)**

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**Gospel**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (24:44-53)**

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

## Hymns

Open : CP 247 **Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise** v1,4,6

Tune: Wm.H.Monk Text: C. Wesley

Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!  
To his throne above the skies; alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, alleluia!  
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!  
he calls the world his own. Alleluia!

See! He lifts his hands above, alleluia!  
See! He shows the prints of love; alleluia!  
Hark! His gracious lips bestow alleluia!  
blessings on his church below. Alleluia

Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!  
far above the starry height, alleluia!  
grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!  
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

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**Psalm 47** Refrain: " God has gone up with a shout "

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Gradual : **Majesty**

J. Hayford (c) 1984 New Spring

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Majesty, worship His majesty  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne, unto His own  
His anthem raise

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus  
Magnify ,come glorify Christ Jesus the King  
Majesty, worship His majesty  
Jesus who died now glorified  
King of all kings

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Offertory : CP 619 **Fairest Lord Jesus**

Traditional Silesian melody Text: anon.

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou the God-head's human Son,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the  
woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer, or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

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Close CP 433 **Lord, You Give the Great Commission** v 1,2,5  
Tune: Abbott's Leigh Text: J. Rowthorn (c) 1978 Hope Publishing  
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Lord, you give the great commission:  
"Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:  
"In my name baptize and teach."  
That the world may trust your promise,  
life abundant meant for each,  
give us all new fervour, draw us  
closer in community;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
"I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
may we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us,  
hold in mind eternity;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.