

Ascension Sunday
May 21, 2023 Worship Bulletin

Gathering for God's Word

Opening Song's of Praise

#2088, "Lord I Lift Your Name on High," Sing the Faith Hymnal

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Words & Music: Rick Founds

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"The Potter's Hand"

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Saviour
I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hands,
Crafted into Your perfect plan
I'm captured by Your holy calling
Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself
Lead me, Lord, I pray

Chorus:

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me
I give my life to the Potter's hand
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me
I give my life to the Potter's hand
You gently call me into Your presence
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life through your eyes
I'm captured by your Holy calling
Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself
Lead me, Lord, I pray

Words & Music: Darlene Zschech

Copyright: 1997 Darlene Zschech/Hillsongs Australia, Admin. in US and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP, c/o Integrity Incorporated, Mobile, AL.) arr. ics, ubp
CCLI#1963157

#319, "Shout to the North," no bridge

Men of faith rise up and sing

Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

Chorus:

Shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By God's grace again we'll fly

Text & Music: Martin Smith, 1995
Copyright: 1995 Curious? Music UK (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)
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*Passing the Peace of Christ

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Hebrews 4: 14; Revelation 5: 10, 12]

Leader: Jesus Christ has come into heaven and is at God's right hand— with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

People: Since we have a great high priest who has gone before us— Jesus, the Son of God—let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Let us praise his holy name!

Leader: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

People: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength be to our God forevermore!

Leader: Alleluia, Amen!

People: Alleluia!

*Hymn of Adoration

#263, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," vs 1, 2, 3

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him Lord of all!

Text: Stanzas 1-3 Edward Perronet-1779, stanzas, 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787
Stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787
Music: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young 1979
Copyright: Music desc. 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Confession

[time of silent personal confession]

All: Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. But we confess that we do not always bow before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. Too often, we have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, Lord, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on 1 John 2: 1-2]

Leader: Hear the Good News of the Gospel: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

People: Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Leader: In Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

“Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?”

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, “Jesus Loves Me.”
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#240, “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks,” vs. 1, 2, 4

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o’er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever.

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Text & Music: Donald Fishel, 1971, arr. Betty Pulkingham & Donald Fishel, 1979
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Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Acts 1: 1-14

Acts 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men 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. 4 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. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 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.”

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “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.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Sermon

“To Infinity & Beyond... Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth”

Responding to God’s Word

*Affirmation of Faith

[The Apostle’s Creed]

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Hymn of Response

#465, “What a Friend we have in Jesus”

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1855
Music: Charles C. Converse, 1868
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*Response

#606, The Doxology, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2163, "He Who Began a Good Work in You," Sing the Faith Hymnal

He who began a good work in you

He who began a good work in you

Will be faithful to complete it
Will be faithful to complete it
He who started the work
Will be faithful to complete it in you

Words & Music: Jon Mohr
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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able