



**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Lord Jesus Christ, exalted far above all principalities, power, might and dominion, at Whose name every knee should bow, not only in this world but also in the world to come, accept our praise and adoration. As the Ascended Head of the Church, O Lord, You are aware of the many problems confronting the Church today. We do not ask that our work be made easier, but only for Your power to help us cope with the problems we have. Help us to be Your feet, running errands of mercy. Help us be your hands, doing deeds of kindness. Help us be Your mouth, witnessing to Your love and salvation. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**THE CHURCH HAS CHOSEN TO CELEBRATE THE EVENT OF THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST 40 DAYS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION.**

The words of Acts 1:3 are: "He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." The church counted off forty days and established that Thursday as the Day of the Ascension. We have gathered to be one with the church throughout the world, and throughout all time in our celebration of our ascended Christ. Jesus went to the right hand of the majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3) This has established the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, making everyone worthy to hear the Word of God, making everyone the world worthy to hear the presentation of the Gospel. Since the Ascension of Jesus, we now watch. We watch for Him to return as He went, knowing that we live in the Messianic kingdom of God, and the reign of Christ now, and waiting for the complete fulfillment when Christ comes again to take us to live in the mansion He has prepared for us.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Ascension of Christ

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 47:5;) Psalm 110:1, 4-5

Psalm 47 doesn't state the author. Verse 5 likely refers to Christ's Ascension. Psalm 110 was written by David and is clearly speaking about the glory given to the Messiah, his work and person. It also explain how it is that Jesus can be considered a Priest even though He is not of the tribe of Levi. (Being a Priest was necessary because He sacrificed Himself.)

**COLLECT**

It is not perfectly obvious as to why Jesus had to leave us. Our weak sinful mind assumes that it would easier for everyone to believe if Jesus was somewhere, here on Earth, so we could go to find Him. The truth is that Jesus traveled in a very wide area, and people refused to believe. We pray, therefore, that as He ascended, we ask that we would be allowed to concentrate on the wonder of Heaven as we struggle through our life here on Earth.

**FIRST LESSON**—Acts 1:1-11

Luke expands on the information we have concerning the Ascension of Jesus back to Heaven. We will read the little bit he gave us in the Gospel. As an introduction to the book of Acts, the verse, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth," establishes the entire theme of Acts as the Apostles (especially Paul,) took the message of the Gospel to the ends of the Earth. The information about the cloud that took Jesus out of their sight and that men in white robes is only found here in Acts.

**GRADUAL**—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This Gradual always makes me smile because is technically made up of three different verses from three different books of the Bible. As a matter of fact, Hebrews 2:7 is quoting Psalm 8, so we could have used the one verse from Matthew and two from Hebrews. It is an especially poignant statement especially for Ascension Day because it shows us the reality of the Resurrection and the necessity of the Ascension, Jesus now rules from Heaven with the authority to bring us to Him.

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Ephesians 1:15-23

The alternate theme for the day would be: God put all things under the feet of the Christ. All of these lessons were chosen during our first round of creating a three year cycle of readings. They are the same every year.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 24:44-53

We have matched up the end of Luke with the beginning of the next book he wrote; Acts. This is all the information we have about the Ascension.