



Ascension (1304-06)
Giotto di Bondone (1267-1357)
Fresco
Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua

Ascension (Observed)

May 24, 2020

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn (This Day in Triumph God's Son), BWV 63
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Heut' triumphieret is a classic Lutheran Easter chorale, thought to have been written by Kasper Stoltzhagen in 1591. The text speaks of Christ's triumphant rise from the dead, punctuated by joyful shouts of "Alleluia". Bach's setting from his Orgelbüchlein places the melody in the highest voice, with the middle voices featuring flowing, sometimes chromatic counterpoint, and the pedal featuring a contrasting motive, providing a rhythmic ostinato.

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 47

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 47:5
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. REFRAIN**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. REFRAIN**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. **REFRAIN**

FIRST READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #168



*Cantor: Go and make disciples of all nations, | says the Lord;**
I am with you always, to the end | of the age

(Matthew 28:19,20)

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty,
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

MEDITATION

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Petit Prélude (Aria)
Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

For the final two pieces on this Ascension Sunday, I am featuring two works by Belgian composer Joseph Jongen. Jongen was born in 1873, and during his lifetime became the most prominent Belgian composer and teacher. While he wrote over 240 works, it is only his organ works that are regularly performed today. His musical style is somewhat eclectic, but is founded in early 20th century French music. His Petit Prélude, subtitled "Aria", is a gentle piece featuring a solo line and an undulating accompaniment. This piece also highlights the Oboe stop on our organ here at Dove of Peace, one of the loveliest stops currently installed on the instrument. .

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Pièce Pour Grand Orgue

Joseph Jonge

Jongen's Pièce Pour Grand Orgue is a festive, grand postlude in three parts. The piece shows influence from English marches, and the middle section features somewhat Germanic counterpoint, but the prevailing stylistic influence comes from organ works by French composers such as Eugene Gigout and Louis Vierne. Jongen also hearkens back to French Classical organ music, using a title (Grand Orgue) that is reserved for the grandest, most joyful pieces from that time period.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!