

Living While Waiting

Celebrating The Ascension of Our Lord
May 21, 2023 -11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

Just before ascending into heaven, Jesus tells His disciples to “wait” in Jerusalem – to “stay in the city.” Wait for what? For how long? And more importantly, what do we do while we are waiting?

Luckily, Jesus didn't leave the disciples in the dark. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it was clear that the disciples were to get busy! By the Spirit's power, Christian believers are to actively witness (in living) God's saving work through our Savior Jesus.

WE SING

"As It Is In Heaven"

Matt Maher & Ed Cash

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: From heaven to earth, from the earth to the cross, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky – You came, Lord Jesus, to fulfill Your plan for us, and we declare with all confidence:

C: "You are our King and we lift Your name on high forever and ever!"

P: Since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has any mastery over Him.

C: Alleluia! Sing praise to God; sing praise to our King!

WE SING

"Jesus Is Coming Back"

C Wedgeworth/J Feliz/P Duncan

WE PRAY

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the 40 days after His resurrection and before His ascension, Jesus shows His disciples that He is alive, promises them the power of the Holy Spirit, and teaches them about their calling to be His witnesses.

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they met together, they asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸But 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."

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

¹⁰They 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."

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus' fulfilled God's plan of salvation and called His disciples to testify about Him to the world.

⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

KID'S TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"Waiting On Living"
(Today's Readings)

Pastor Doug Slavens

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Dear Lord God, We acknowledge before You our deep need for Your saving work in Your Son Jesus, who gave His life for us. By His living and dying and rising again, by His ascension to the Heavenly throne, give us new perspectives for living our lives.

C: **Help us to honestly see our sin. Help us to see the shortcomings in our lives. Help us to desire a fresh start with You. Help us to look to You for answers to our problems. Give us a new vision of what life can be like as we consider the needs and concerns of all who live around us. Bless us with faith, and forgive our sins. Teach us to hope. Teach us to love. Teach us to share Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Silent time for personal reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

WE SHARE IN OUR LORD'S SUPPER

PREPARATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE SING

"Behold Our God"
"What A Beautiful Name"

Baird/ Baird/ Baird/Altrogge

Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

WE SING

"Greater"

Mercy Me

CLOSING BLESSING

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Note – Our offerings are received in the offering boxes located near our entrances

*Entrusted with wonderful gifts from our Lord's hand,
we live and give, understanding our purpose as God's children.*