

Order of Worship
ASCENSION OF THE LORD
9:30 am – May 12, 2024

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Children of the Heavenly Father
Song #88475. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service
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Cathi Peterson, organ

Henry V. Gerike

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Varre Cummins, liturgist

L: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

P: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

P: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

L: Let's get to work!

P: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

Nancy C. Townsend <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2785/worship-connection-may-12-2024>

OPENING HYMN

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise
Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Public Domain.
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song #95997

UMH 312

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia! Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!
Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia! Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!
3. See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!
Though returning to his throne, Alleluia! Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!
4. 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!

MOTHER'S DAY LITURGY

See last page

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 44-53 (NRSV)
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Varre Cummins, liturgist

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

PREPARATION HYMN*Alleluia, Alleluia*

UMH 162

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Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. **Refrain**
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. **Refrain**
3. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. **Refrain**
4. Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Savior. **Refrain**

MESSAGE

Pastor Cindy Huskey

MUSICAL RESPONSE*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*

Everett Titcomb

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VFUMC Chancel Choir; Bob Riggs, guest conductor; Cathi Peterson, piano

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. As we offer these gifts to you, draw our attention away from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you so that we might focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. Amen.

Nancy C. Townsend, adapted

SENDING HYMN*Thine Be the Glory*

UMH 308

Words: Edward L. Budry, 1904, trans by. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923

Music: Harmonia Sacra, 1753 arr, from G.F. Handel 1747, Public Domain.

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

(Refrain)

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life! Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Splendor and Honor*

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

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Cathi Peterson, organ

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Prayer Requests

First UMC of Lompoc—Pastor Terry Fisher

First UMC of Lompoc—Pastor Pamela Fisher

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

A Candle Lighting Liturgy for Mother's Day

Leader: We gather this day in worship esteeming the Light of Jesus Christ—who is both God and human, born of his mother Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is from God, the source of all light, that every good and perfect gift has come, including the gift of Mothers. May we thank God for this good gift, today and always.

All: We light the candle of memory.

Leader: We remember the light of the women in our lives who birthed us, adopted us, fostered us, nurtured us, cared for us, shaped us and disciplined us who are no longer beside us. May God's light shine upon each one and may God's comfort embrace each grieving family.

All: We light the candle of honor.

Leader: We honor the women in our lives who bring forth new beginnings, embrace us as their own, foster our growth, nurture us, care for us and help form us into better people by the power of their love which comes from God. May God's blessings be upon each one.

All: We light the candle of peace.

Leader: We pray for the mothers who have buried children. We pray for the women who long to be mothers, but are not. We also pray for each mother-child relationship that has been strained or broken by action, in-action, distance or illness. May God grant peace to each one who finds this day difficult.

All: We light the candle of hope.

Leader: We encourage the many mothers are overwhelmed trying to make ends meet who while exhausted love anyway. We encourage parents who must raise their children alone, grandparents and other guardians who nurture children in their parent's stead. May God empower each one with hope.

All: God, teach us to recognize Your light in all of its many forms as we remember, honor and reflect on especially the gift of Motherhood on this day. Fill us with your hope that we might shine your light to the generations after us.

Amen.

Rev. JoAnne Pounds