**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Ascension Of the Lord

May 21, 2023



*“While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.”*

*(Luke 24:51)*

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**Ascension Of the Lord**

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**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Holy Spirit of God, who ascended to the heavens

**P: Guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me**

L: Bind my hands, that they may do no evil

**P: Sanctify my heart that I may dwell with you**

L: Be our God, and we will be your people

**P: Wherever you lead me, I will go**

L: Spirit of Holiness, by your power and grace

**P: Lead me unto the fullness of your truth**

**\*Opening Song:** “Rejoice the Lord Is King” #276 (1-4)

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**Your Lord and King adore**

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing**

**And triumph evermore**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns**

**The God of truth and love**

**When He had purged our stains**

**He took his seat above**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**His kingdom cannot fail**

**He rules o'er earth and heav'n**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus giv’n**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Rejoice in glorious hope**

**Our Lord, the Judge, shall come**

**And take His servants up**

**To their eternal home**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, whose blessed Son our savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages. May we also in heart and mind ascend with him and continually dwell, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Congregational Song:** “How He Loves”

**And He is jealous for me**

**Love's like a hurricane I am a tree**

**Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy**

**When all of a sudden**

**I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory**

**And I realize just how beautiful You are**

**And how great Your affections are for me**

**And, oh, how He loves us, oh**

**Oh, how He loves us**

**How He loves us, oh**

**And He is jealous for me**

**Love's like a hurricane I am a tree**

**Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy**

**When all of a sudden**

**I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory**

**And I realize just how beautiful You are**

**And how great Your affections are for me**

**And, oh, how He loves us, oh**

**Oh, how He loves us**

**How He loves us, oh**

**Yeah, He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves.**

**And we are His portion and He is our prize**

**Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes**

**If His grace is an ocean, we're all sinking**

**And Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss**

**And my heart turns violently inside of my chest**

**I don't have time to maintain these regrets**

**When I think about the way**

**That He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves.**

**Yeah, He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves us.**

**Oh, how He loves.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Ephesians 1

**P: God 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, far 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to 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.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And 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.”

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

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “Thine is the Glory” #264 (1-3)

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away**

**Kept the folded grave-clothes, where Thy body lay**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb**

**Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom**

**Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing**

**For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**No more we doubt Thee, Prince of Life**

**Life is naught without Thee, aid us in our strife**

**Make us more than conqu’rors, thro’ Thy deathless love**

**Bring us safely thro’ Jordan, to Thy home above**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: The Almighty and most merciful God grants that by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we may be enlightened and strengthened for service. May we give until the Gospel reaches the ends of the earth, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” #272 (1-4)

**Crown him with many crowns**

**The Lamb upon his throne**

**Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns**

**All music but its own**

**Awake, my soul, and sing**

**Of him who died for thee**

**And hail him as thy matchless king**

**Through all eternity**

**Crown Him the Lord of love Behold His hands and side**

**Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified**

**No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight**

**But downward bends his wond’ring eyes at mysteries so bright**

**Crown him the Lord of life**

**Who triumphed o'er the grave**

**Who rose victorious to the strife**

**For those he came to save**

**His glories now we sing**

**Who died and rose on high**

**Who died eternal life to bring**

**And lives that death may die**

**Crown him the Lord of Heaven**

**One with the Father known**

**One with the Spirit thro’ Him given**

**From yonder glorious throne**

**To Thee be endless praise**

**For thou for us hast died**

**Be Thou, O Lord, thro’ endless days**

**Adored and magnified**

**\*Benediction**

L: Christ has ascended, sits at God’s right hand, and is glorified forever. Therefore, may the soul of Christ be your sanctification. May the body of Christ be your salvation. And may the passion of Christ be your comfort, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.