

Lutheran Service Book 493

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Divine Service: Thursday, May 25 at 7 PM

Church Year: The Ascension of our Lord – 2017

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We are gathered here tonight:

- To celebrate Jesus' victory over sin, death, and hell!
- To acknowledge His glorious resurrection!
- To rejoice in the fact that He is now reigning over all things for the good of the Church, *thus for the good of those who trust in Him!*

We could describe Jesus in many ways, but sometimes I like to identify five key events in His life: His ✓ birth, ✓ life, ✓ death, ✓ resurrection, and ✓ ascension; in other words:

- ➔ His *virgin* birth!
- ➔ His *sinless* life!
- ➔ His *sacrificial* death!
- ➔ His *glorious* resurrection!
- ➔ His ascension *to the Father's right hand!*

Today we focus on a wonderful ascension hymn, entitled, "**A Hymn of Glory, Let Us Sing,**" which includes **(1)** His actual ascension, **(2)** the apostles who saw Him ascend, **(3)** the angels who appeared, **(4)** the promise of His return, **(5)** our present joy and future reward, and **(6)** our ongoing praise to Him!

1. **Jesus' Actual Ascension:** **A hymn of glory let us sing!**
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 - a. Alleluia: That word means ***Praise the LORD***, and is sung 42 times in this hymn. So why all the praising? Because – *even though we deserve sin, death, and hell* – God has freely provided us with forgiveness, life, and heaven through Jesus! Therefore, let us gladly ***Praise the LORD!***
 - b. Untrod: Think about the journey: The Son of God ✦ came from heaven to earth, ✦ completed His *impossible* mission, and ✦ returned to heaven. Only He could do such things, *then He actually did and we – through Him – are forever blessed!*

2. **The Apostles Who Saw Jesus Ascend:** **The holy apostolic band, Upon the Mount of Olives stand.**
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful foll'wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.... // On the day Jesus died, He told His disciples about His departure – *how He would leave, but He would not leave them as orphans. Instead, soon after His departure, they would receive the Holy Spirit to be within them. Then, just as He had said – 40 days after His resurrection – He ascended into heaven in full view of His disciples!*

3. **The Angels Who Appeared:** **To them the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”**
Alleluia, alleluia!
“This is the Savior,” thus they say;
“This is His glorious triumph day!” ... // The OT describes Jesus’ entry from *earth into paradise* with these awesome words: ^{ESV} **Daniel 7:13-14** “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” Even now, Jesus is seated and reigning *for the good of those who trust in Him!*
-

4. **The Promise of Jesus’ Return:** **“You see Him now, ascending high, Up to the portals of the sky.”**
Alleluia, alleluia!
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty.” ... // Over and over Jesus said He would return, *even the angels who appeared after Jesus’ ascension said, “This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11 ESV).* So He will definitely come, *but we don’t know when!* Since He will come like a thief in the night, *at an unexpected time,* let us – *by God’s grace* – be ever-ready through our relationship with Jesus, which is nourished by Word and Sacrament!

5. **Our Present Joy and Future Reward:** **Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.... // Even though we live in this valley of sorrow, *let us be filled with joy because* †we know Jesus, †we have God's forgiveness, and †we are members of God's family. Furthermore, let us remember that *this life is short in comparison to eternity*; then, *let us fix our eyes on the wonderful things yet to come for all who continue in Jesus!*
6. **Our Ongoing Praise to Jesus:** **O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:**
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one....¹ // ➔ **Jesus** is the Christ, ➔ **Jesus** is risen from the dead, ➔ **Jesus** is ascended to the Father's right hand, and ➔ **Jesus** is God – *with the Father and the Holy Spirit!* Therefore, let us give them our praise for †making us, †sustaining us, †saving us, and †promising us a most wonderful eternity!

Conclusion: Let us pray: We thank You, dear Holy Trinity, for all of Your temporal and eternal blessings to us! Amen!

CONNECT WITH US ➔ Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

¹ © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012222.