

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

THIS I BELIEVE (THE CREED)

AMAZING GRACE

Words: Charles Wesley  
b. Dec. 18, 1707, Epworth, England; d. Mar 29, 1788, London.

Our Father everlasting The all creating One God Almighty  
Through Your Holy Spirit Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Savior

Undoubtedly the most popular of all the Ascension Hymns, this is another Charles Wesley text to which later editors have added the “alleluias” (similar to “Christ the Lord is Risen today.”

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus

The text offers its “alleluias” for Christ’s triumphal entry into glory upon the accomplishments of his saving works on earth (sts 1-2) and affirms his sovereignty over the whole world (st 3).  
Elaborating on Luke 24:51, the final stanza views the ascended Christ as the source of blessings for the church on earth.

Our Judge and our Defender Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high

I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal  
I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints’ communion  
And in Your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection  
When Jesus comes again  
For I believe, in the name of Jesus

OFFERTORY

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS • ECBC HANDBELLS

ANTHEM OF RESPONSE

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE • ECBC CHOIR

PLEASE STAND AND JOIN IN SINGING  
THIS HYMN OF ASCENSION WHEN DIRECTED

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heav’n, Alleluia!

Circled round with angel pow’rs, Alleluia!  
Their triumphant Lord and ours, Alleluia!  
Christ has conquered death and sin, Alleluia!  
Take the King of Glory in, Alleluia!

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heav’n, Alleluia!

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

ECBC STORIES VIDEO

KARINA SCHUK & MCKENZIE TAYLOR

MORNING SERMON

CONRAD “BUSTER” BROWN • SENIOR PASTOR

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

AT THE NAME OF JESUS

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

MORE THAN AN AFTERTHOUGHT:  
JESUS’ ASCENSION MATTERS

BRIAN TAB [EXCERPTS]

Did you mark your calendar for Ascension Day? How many of us have even heard of Ascension Day? Or perhaps just a sermon about Jesus’ ascension into heaven? It is impossible to overstate the importance of Good Friday, when Jesus died for our sins, and Easter Sunday, when he was raised from the dead — but Jesus’ earthly ministry did not stop there.

After the resurrection, Jesus taught his disciples about God’s kingdom for forty days (Acts 1:3) and then he was “taken up” to heaven (Acts 1:2, 11). The cross and empty tomb are at the very heart of the gospel message proclaimed by Jesus’ followers throughout history (see 1 Corinthians 15:1–4). However, for many evangelical Christians and churches, Jesus’ ascension is simply an afterthought to Easter and Good Friday.

Here I want to highlight six aspects of Jesus’ ascension or exaltation, in hopes that this significant and climactic event in Jesus’ life will no longer be an afterthought for you.

1. Jesus continues to work after the ascension.
2. The ascended Lord Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to his people.
3. Jesus’ ascension is his heavenly enthronement as King.
4. Jesus’ ascension is his return to his Father.
5. The ascended Lord Jesus is our heavenly mediator and high priest.
6. The ascended Lord Jesus will return as King and Judge.

Though often overlooked, the ascension completes Jesus’ earthly mission and signifies his enthronement as heavenly king. Jesus has completed his Father’s mission and he now rules with all authority and intercedes with all sympathy as our mediator and high priest. I close with four implications of Jesus’ ascension for our lives.

Remember that Jesus is presently reigning as king and remains active and engaged in our world and our lives.

Therefore live boldly, confidently, and strategically as servants of the exalted king of heaven. Know that your labors in the Lord Jesus are not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

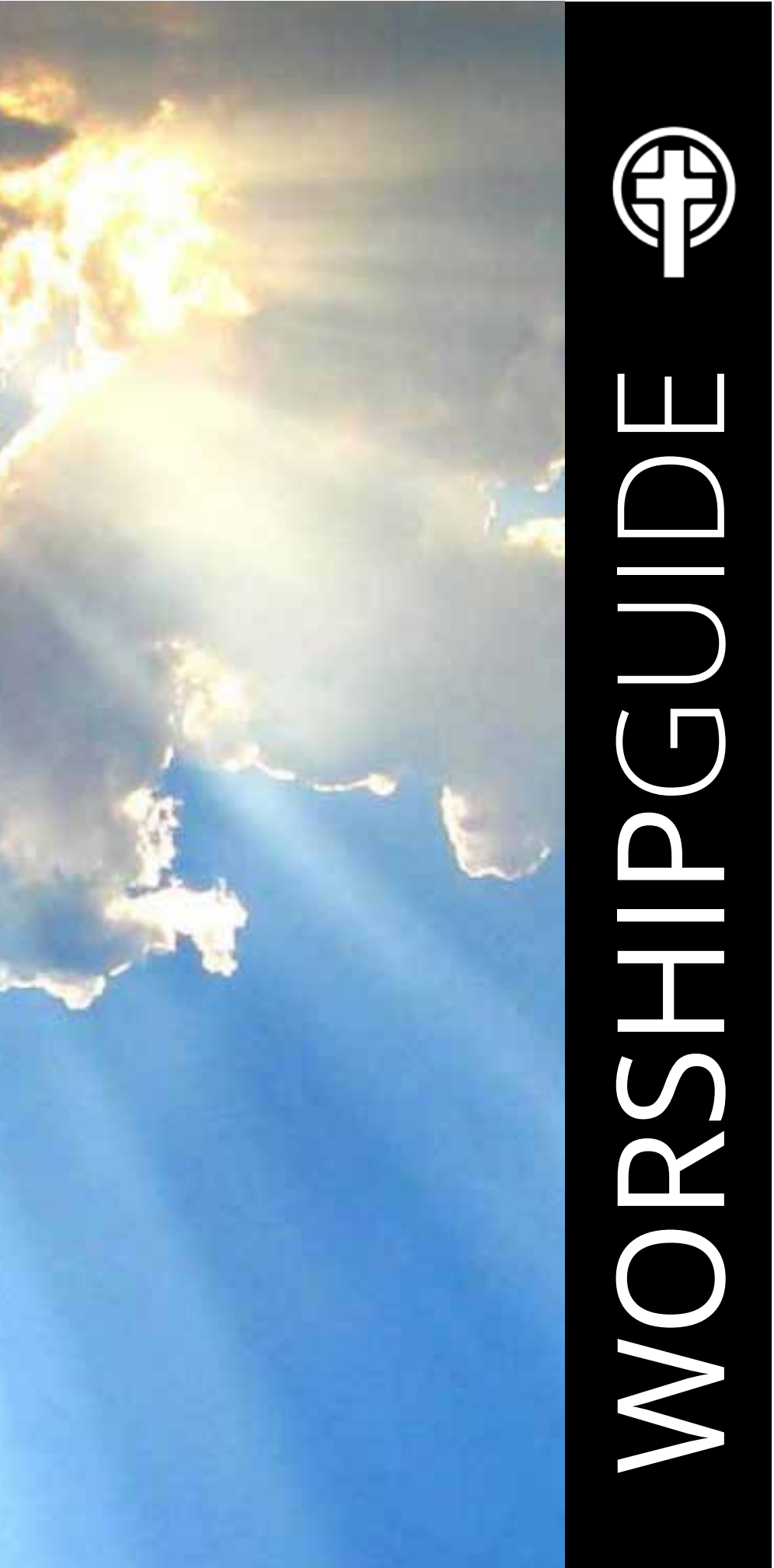
Sufferers, take heart that Jesus is not indifferent to your struggle. He has endured great suffering and is thus the most merciful and sympathetic counselor and mediator. Take your cares to your ascended Lord who hears your prayers and can respond with all heaven’s authority.

Finally hope in a glorious future. The ascended Lord will return as judge and king. He will abolish injustice, end suffering, and destroy death and set up his kingdom of truth, righteousness and love. Best of all, we will be with our king forever.



361 Egypt Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843.856.3222

Equipping people to pursue Jesus Christ passionately as they impact the culture.  
eastcooperbaptist.com





The Church in Corporate Worship | **MAY 21, 2017**

Please use the following prayer to prepare your hearts for worship:

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the darkness of death you have raised Christ to the right hand of your majesty on high.

The author of our faith, his passion accomplished, has opened for us the way to heaven and sends on us the promised Spirit.

May we be ready to follow Jesus and so be brought to the glory of his presence where songs of triumph for ever sound:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

## ASCENSION SUNDAY

After the resurrection, Jesus taught his disciples about God's kingdom for forty days (Acts 1:3) and then he was "taken up" to heaven (Acts 1:2, 11).

The cross and empty tomb are at the very heart of the gospel message proclaimed by Jesus' followers throughout history.

Today we join believers around the world in celebrating the glorious ascension of our Lord to the heavens where he sits at the right hand of God and from whence he will come again in the clouds.

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise!

## REFLECTION

### THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After 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. While 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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."

-- Acts 1:1-11

When you went to bed last night Jesus was at work subduing his enemies. While you slept he was continuing to rule over the world. He was still at it when you woke up this morning and even now as you read this. That is the outrageous claim of the ascension. It is outrageous because his rule is not recognized in his world. Open a newspaper and it is not full of how Jesus is reigning. Instead it is full of conflict and crime.

Yet the story of the ascension is the story of the enthronement of Jesus as the king of the world.

-- Tim Chester

Wisely did the ancient church confess not only that *He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, on the third day he rose again* but that *he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

The ascension reminds us that Christianity is not only an historical faith, but a faith of the present and future. Jesus is, right now, in glorified humanity on the throne of the universe, wielding as the God-man "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18).

He is not just our suffering servant who came and died and rose triumphant, but our actively ruling, actively conquering king.

-- David Mathis

## PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

## THE PRELUDE

ELENA CRUDGE, ORGANIST

## MORNING WELCOME

### AND ANNOUNCEMENTS VIDEO

## ORCHESTRAL PRAISE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Vs 1,4)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning Our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, In earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM PSALM 47

**LEADER:** *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

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

**LEADER:** *God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*

**CONGREGATION:** Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

**LEADER:** *For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!*

**CONGREGATION:** God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.

**LEADER:** *For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!*

**CONGREGATION:** Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

## A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING

Words: Bede, The Venerable b. 673, Jarrow, Co. Durham, England; d. May 26, 735, Jarrow.

This hymn of the ascension of Christ was originally written in Latin in the early part of the eighth century and is, perhaps, the first hymn to be written in England.

In life, its author, The Venerable Bede, was a brilliant scholar and prolific writer in such subjects as philosophy, poetry, biography, history, and theology. In death, his remains were deposited in a tomb in Durham Cathedral.

The record of Christ's ascension, which was prophesied in Psalm 68:18, is found in the following passages: Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:36-53, and Acts 1:1-11.

**Stanza 1** of the hymn text is a reminder from Luke that Jesus was "carried up into heaven." This is an expression of Christ's humanity and of Luke's perception that "carried up" was the only way to describe such a miraculous event.

**Stanza 2** reflects the truth of Acts 1:10: "They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them."

**Stanza 3** echoes the text of Mark 16:19: "...he was taken up into heaven he sat at the right hand of God."

Finally **stanza 4** is the "new song" of praise, a doxology similar to the song of praise of those who had witnessed the event: "Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with joy. And they stayed continually in the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52-53).

## A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Unison*  
1. A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the  
2. The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ie band up - on the Mount of  
3. O Lord, our home-ward path-way bend that our un - wear - ied  
4. O ris - en Christ, as - cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let

world shall ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be -  
OI - ives stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful  
hearts as - cend, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! where, seat - ed on your  
earth ac - cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al-le - lu - ia!  
fol-lowers see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty. Al-le - lu - ia!  
Fa-ther's throne, you reign as King of kings a - lone. Al-le - lu - ia!  
a - ges run, with Fa-ther and with Spir - it one. Al-le - lu - ia!

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

## HEIDELBERG CATECHISM Q & A #46,47,49

ON THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

**LEADER:** *What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?*

**CONGREGATION:** That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth into heaven<sup>1</sup> and remains there on our behalf<sup>2</sup> until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.<sup>3</sup>

1 Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11  
2 Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24  
3 Acts 1:11

**LEADER:** *But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?*

**CONGREGATION:** Christ is true human and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;<sup>2</sup> but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us.<sup>3</sup>

1 Matt. 28:20  
2 Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21  
3 Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

**LEADER:** *How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?*

**CONGREGATION:** First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father.<sup>1</sup> Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself.<sup>2</sup> Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge.<sup>3</sup> By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.<sup>4</sup>

1 Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1  
2 John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6  
3 John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5  
4 Col. 3:1-4