

Responsive Prayer 2

LSB 285

As We Gather

In Jesus' final appearance to the eleven disciples, He tells them that they will be His witnesses, witnesses of His resurrection. Not only will they be witnesses in familiar places such as Jerusalem and Judea, but they will also be witnesses in Samaria, a foreign land where these Jewish disciples did not care to travel. And finally, the disciples will be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection to the ends of the earth. As we remember Jesus' ascension, we also remember the faithfulness of His disciples to be His witnesses and to go where they were sent, so that we could know the power of Jesus and His resurrection even though we are thousands of miles from Jerusalem.

Opening Versicles

LSB 285

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 47; antiphon: v. 5

¹Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

²For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

³He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

⁴He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

⁹The 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!

Reading

Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
 With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Kyrie

LSB 285

- L** O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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 and ever. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Versicles

LSB 286

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.
L In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C for You answer me.
L Hide Your face from my sins,

- C** and blot out all my iniquities.
L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.
L Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.
L Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C my lips will praise You.
L For You have been my help,
C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C unite my heart to fear Your name.
L I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C and I will glorify Your name forever.
L May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
L Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
L Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C listen to my plea for grace.

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Benedicamus

LSB 287

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Blessing

LSB 287

- L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C Amen.

Acknowledgments

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