

Seventh Sunday of Easter: ASCENSION DAY

May 24, 2009

10:00 a.m.

*Let the first note of the prelude be a call for
personal meditation in preparation for worship.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE ASCENDED LORD

PRELUDE

Processional

C.S. Lang

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

People of God, the Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, sends his greeting to you. And his greeting is this: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the working of the Holy Spirit. This is the greeting of Christ, who arose from the grave.

He died and rose that we might have eternal life.

All thanks be to him!

This same Christ has ascended to the Father.

He ascended that we might experience God's presence and power. All praise be to him!

*SALUTATION

+*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 150

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Tune: MADRID

*SCRIPTURE Luke 24:44-54

*RESPONSE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 151 (vs. 1 & 4)

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Tune: DIADEMATA

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsively*)

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith
in his power to deal with the world.
Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.
Let us pray.

**We come, O Lord, on this day of glory
to confess our lack of trust.**

**While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
we have too often acted as though you are powerless
in the face of today's events.**

**Help us to live with confidence in your presence today
and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Ephesians 1:18-23

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP CENTERS

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 47

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

p. 518

HYMN (*see insert*)

Clap Your Hands

Tune: CLAP YOUR HANDS

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

p. 118

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 141

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Tune: DEO GRACIAS

SERMON

“What Do We Make of the Ascension?”

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

WE RESPOND IN PRAISE, PRAYER, AND SERVICE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 46 & 49

(responsively)

People of God, let us believe in our heart and confess with our mouths that which concerns the ascension of Christ.

What do we mean by saying, “He ascended into heaven?”

That Christ,

while his disciples watched,

was lifted up from the earth to heaven

and will be there for our good

until he comes again

to judge the living and the dead.

How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

First, he pleads our cause

in heaven

in the presence of his Father.

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven

a guarantee that Christ our head

will take us, his members, to himself in heaven.

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth

as a further guarantee.

By the Spirit’s power

we make a goal of our lives,

not earthly things, but the things

above where Christ is,

sitting at God’s right hand.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Eternal Father Strong to Save arr. by John Dykes

ANTHEM

William L. Dawson

*Soon ah will be don’ a-wid de troubles ob de worl’,
goin’ hom t’ live wid God.*

I wan’ t’ meet my mother; I’m goin’ t’ live wid God.

No more weepin’ an’ a wailin’; I’m goin’ t’ live wid God.

I wan’ t’ meet my Jesus; I’m goin’ t’ live wid God.

*DOXOLOGY *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 592

Tune: OLD HUNDREDDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Sing! A New Creation* 158

You Are Crowned with Many Crowns (sung twice)

*BENEDICTION *(responsively)*

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.

Amen!

POSTLUDE

Festal Flourish

John Marsh

+Latecomers will be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Kent Fry, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; Brian Knowles, prayer for illumination; Combined Choir; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.

TODAY

We welcome all who worship with us and ask visitors and members to sign the Friendship Folders so that we may get to know one another. Please join us in the Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the worship service.

The flowers at the chancel today are given by the DuMez family in memory of Bill and Nell Wichers.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Marilyn Brown and Dennis Gebben will be available to pray with you following today's worship service. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer following the service (located in the south hallway on the main level).

ASSISTING TODAY: Greeters – George and Doris Lievense, John, Kara, Will, and Lucy Green, Irwin and Barbara Brink; Ushers – Terry and Jennifer Kroll; Deacons – Scott Wolterink, Jay Mosterd, Jim Hensley, Jeff Voskuil; Refreshment Servers – Frank and Coiene Smith.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Jeff and Vicki Voskuil.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Children 4 years through 2nd grade will be ushered from the sanctuary during the worship service to continue worship in the Worship Centers on the lower level.

YOUNG DISCIPLES, for children 3rd-5th grades, will meet in the chapel during the worship service.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

Church office closed

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting

WEDNESDAY

6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Saints
8:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers
6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY

8:30 a.m. Gifts & Memorials Committee
12:00 p.m. Young Hearts Luncheon
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. Property Team
9:00 a.m. Newsletter Assembly

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. Women's Ministries Tea

PERSONAL

Share your prayer concerns by using the prayer request cards found in the Friendship Folders. Place the requests in the offering plate. Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

SYMPATHY is extended to Bob Curnick in the death of his father-in-law, Kenneth Sluis, on May 15 in Grand Rapids.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Pray for – Bob Brinks, Bill Segrist. Lakeside Vista – Bob Brinks, Rosey Maatman, Roger Prins; Heartland of Holland – Elizabeth Bennett, Appledorn Living Center – Louise Brackett. In the Military – Mark South, Christine Loman, Tom Piaget.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

SIGN UP YOUR KIDS FOR OUR ROME:

PAUL & THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

August 3, 4, 5 and 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tear off and put in offering plate or bring to the church office.

Name (s) and ages _____

In case of emergency, contact _____

Phone _____

Allergies, or other medical conditions _____

Sign ups also available at the children's info table in the Gathering Place.

GENERAL ITEMS

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES are now available. Please pick up yours today from the literature table in the Gathering Place. If there is not one with your name on it please call Kristen in the church office so she can get one for you.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: All women of the church are encouraged to attend the May Tea next Saturday, May 30. You may still make a reservation by calling the church office by noon Wednesday, May 27. Come join the fellowship and meet new friends at Third. There is no charge for the Tea.

YOUNG HEARTS: Tuesday is the last day to make reservations for the next Young Hearts luncheon on Thursday, May 28 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. **Because this is a catered lunch we are not able to accept reservations after Tuesday.** There is no charge for lunch (provided by Fellowship Committee). Ross Nykamp, Director of Lumir Corporation, will present "Old Holland vs. New Holland." Transportation is available on request. Please make your reservations by calling the church office, 392-1459.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: If you are interested in being a part of the Community Garden, there are still a few more plots open. Contact Jon Van Duinen at vrienduinen@gmail.com or 392-3578.

NEWLY ELECTED Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed on Sunday, May 31. Elected were: Program Elder – Ron Hartgerink, Jerry Mount; Parish Elder – Carol Doezema, Matt Floding, Carl Schroeder, Ruth Sill, Betty Voskuil, Chris Walvoord; Deacons – Tom Bos, Carl Heideman, Marj Hoekstra, Karen Holleman, and Morrie Peterson. The Nomination Committee will continue to look for three more Parish Elders to complete the roster.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: On Sunday, June 7 there will be a brief meeting in the library at 11:15 a.m. to schedule a time for new members' orientation. Those worshiping with us and visiting who would like to explore membership are invited to attend. Pastor Kent will lead the orientation.

General Synod is requesting prayer coverage during Synod June 5-9. They need prayer intercessors at De Vos Center, prayer table hosts, and prayer walkers, various times are available. Anyone interested please call Jane Dykstra, 393-2000. You do **not** need to be a member of the prayer team to participate.

A group from the Holland area will be traveling with The Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. The foundation mainly serves the area of Port-au-Prince and provides food distribution, schools, orphanages and medical clinics. There will be a container in the Gathering Place to collect needed items to be taken with them: antibacterial hand soap, toothpaste, deodorant, children's vitamins with iron, hydrocortisone cream or ointment, Lotrimin 1% cream (for skin ring worm), latex gloves, boy's black belts for uniforms (size small), new children's underwear (small sizes), new children's white socks, umbrellas, and rice.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Holland Hospital's home meal delivery program is in need of people to deliver home meals at lunch time on the south side of town. It only takes a few minutes of time for a lot of gratification! We are in need of noon meal drivers on various days throughout the week. If interested, please call the Volunteer office at 394-3140 or 394-3372.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America is meeting on the campus of Hope College June 1 through June 10. We, in western Michigan, have the opportunity to share our smiling faces, welcoming spirit, common faith, and helping hands with delegates arriving from across the United States and Canada, as well as with international guests of the General Synod. Drivers are needed to pick up travelers from the Grand Rapids airport and bring them to Hope College. Often small groups of less than four persons arrive together. It is a delightful ride to Holland when they are transported by RCA members. Drivers are needed for "airport runs." Call the Holland Classis office 394-0550 or e-mail hollandclassis@att.net if you would be willing to assist with an airport run or two.

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

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Website: www.trcholland.org

CareLine: (616) 393-5574 or (800) 937-5774

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, & Chapel
are wired with an Induction Hearing Loop

A Stephen Ministry Congregation