**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Ascension Of the Lord**

**May 29, 2022**



*“When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight."*

*(Acts 1:9)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/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 Hymn:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” #124 (vv.1-4)

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!**

**Let angels prostrate fall**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race**

**Ye ransomed from the fall**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred every tribe**

**On this terrestrial ball**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng**

**We at his feet may fall**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**\*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.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Acts 1:1-11

 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.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, also grants in us that same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in the consolation of Christ. May our spirits grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hades, 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 47

**P: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, 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 is king 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.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “One Day” #210 (vv.1-2,4-5)

**One day when heaven was filled with His praises**

**One day when sin was as black as could be**

**Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin**

**Dwelt among men, my example is He**

**Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me**

**Buried, He carried my sins far away**

**Rising, He justified freely, forever**

**One day He’s coming O glorious day**

**One day they led Him up Calvary’s mountain**

**One day they nailed Him to die on the tree**

**Suffering anguish, despised and rejected**

**Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He**

**Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me**

**Buried, He carried my sins far away**

**Rising, He justified freely, forever**

**One day He’s coming O glorious day**

**One day the grave could conceal Him no longer**

**One day the stone rolled away from the door**

**Then He arose, over death He had conquered**

**Now is ascended, my Lord ever more**

**Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me**

**Buried, He carried my sins far away**

**Rising, He justified freely, forever**

**One day He’s coming O glorious day**

**One day the trumpet will sound for His coming**

**One day the skies with His glory will shine**

**Wonderful day, my beloved ones bringing**

**Glorious Savior, this Jesus is mine**

**Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me**

**Buried, He carried my sins far away**

**Rising, He justified freely, forever**

**One day He’s coming O glorious day**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Ephesians 1:15-23

 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

 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**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**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:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” #59 (vv.1-2,5)

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart**

**Rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Your festal banner wave on high**

**The cross of Christ your King**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**With all the angel choirs**

**With all the saints on earth**

**Pour out the strains of joy and bliss**

**True rapture, noblest mirth!**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Praise God, who reigns on high**

**The Lord whom we adore**

**The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

**One God forevermore**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**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**: “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” #756 (vv.1-4)

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord**

**He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored**

**He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword**

**His truth is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**His truth is marching on**

**I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps**

**They have built him an altar in the evening dews and damps**

**I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps**

**His day is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**His truth is marching on**

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat**

**He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat**

**O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet**

**Our God is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**His truth is marching on**

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea**

**With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me**

**As he died to make us holy, let us die to make all free**

**While God is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah**

**His truth is marching on**

**\*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.