



“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

(Acts 1;1-11 - NIV)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You truly are the King of glory. As our ascended Savior, You sit at the Right Hand of God the Father, and You rule all things for our eternal good. You have promised that You would not leave us alone, but that You would send us the Spirit of truth. By Your power, help us to be Your witness wherever we may go in all that we do and say, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

Opening Hymn **C.W. 170 / TLH 215**

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Acts 1:1-11

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 47 (Liturgy pg. 85; Read or Sing as desired)

Clap your hands all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His Holy throne.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

God is the King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise.

This is the Word of The Lord.

Second Lesson – Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel Lesson – Luke 24:36-53

Apostle's Creed – (pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 171 / TLH 212**

Sermon Text: Acts 1:1-11

Sermon Theme: Jesus The Christ – Came – Ascended – Is Coming Again.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering

Offering Prayer

Prayer Of The Church (Responsive Prayer – C.W. pg. 126)

Lord's Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 173 / TLH 216**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 175 / TLH 213**

Dear Guests! – We pray that you will be able to join us again after the COVID-19 issue is past. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail: Phone: 734-761-1740; E-mail: stjohnsnorthfield2015@gmail.com

SERMON TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

Vs. 1 – In my former book (The Book of Luke), Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

Vs. 2 – until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen.

Vs. 3 – After His sufferings, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Vs. 4 – On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “**Do not leave Jerusalem**, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Vs. 5 – For John baptized with water, but in a few days You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 6 – So when they met together, they asked Him, “Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Vs. 7 – He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority.

Vs. 8 – But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my **witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”

Vs. 9 – After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Vs. 10 - They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Vs. 11 – “Men of Galilee,” they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35)

This past week the Lord God Almighty called one of the members of St. John’s to his heavenly home.

The family will miss him very much.

Have you ever had a loved one die and you asked the Lord in prayer, WHY LORD? Why did you take my loved one away from me?

Why Lord, didn’t you allow my loved one to remain here longer to help me?

Thankfully, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we know that when a believer dies, they are in heaven forever with the Lord.

We also know from the book of **Genesis 3:22** – That the Lord God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, so that they would not eat from the fruit of the *Tree of Life*.

If Adam and Eve had eaten from the Tree of Life after the fall into sin, it would have meant that they and all people would have ended up living in this sin infected world – forever with sin, and in sin.

Therefore we thank the Lord that we and our loved ones do not have to remain in this world forever, but instead can look forward to heaven.

As we celebrate The Ascension of our Lord Jesus, there may be some people who ask:

WHY did the Lord Jesus Ascend into heaven?

We can ask: Why didn't Jesus just stay here on earth to help us and be with us physically all the time?

Just think about that.

Wouldn't it be nice if anytime I or you had a question or problem in life that we would just Google the address of Jesus, and then go to His house, or send Him an e-mail or give Him a phone call or text Him to find out what we should do in life?

However, if you remember from the time that Jesus did walk upon this earth, there were numerous times when He was instructing His disciples, the Jewish people as a whole and on specific occasions various religious leaders and groups, and they either did not understand, or they did not believe, or they out and out rejected what the Jesus was teaching them.

A few examples include the following:

In **Matthew 21:23-27** – The Chief priest and elders of the people of Israel went to Jesus in the temple courts and challenged Jesus with this question: “By what authority are You doing these things and Who gave You this authority?”

Jesus in turn asked them a question to point them to the fact that His authority came from heaven.

Even though the Chief priests and elders of the people knew the answer, they rejected it and did not answer Jesus.

Another example can be found in **Luke 4:14-30** – When Jesus was in the town of Nazareth at the synagogue and after Jesus finished reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isa. 61:1-2), which was a prophecy about Himself, Jesus pointed out that He was the One “Who would proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.” After Jesus told the Jews that it was He, they tried to throw Him over a cliff.

And again in our text for today, in **Verse 6** the disciples asked Jesus on the Mountain of Olives just prior to the Ascension, “Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

The disciples did not understand that Jesus did not come into this world to establish an earthly Kingdom, as He had told Pontius Pilate during the trial on Good Friday, “My Kingdom is NOT of this world.” (John 18:36)

Therefore from these three examples we see that even if Jesus were still walking among us here on earth, - How many people would actually listen to Jesus?

As our ascended Savior, Jesus is at the Right hand of the Father interceding for us when we pray. We can be confident that our prayers are heard for Jesus sake.

Christians who have come before us, found the Ascension of Jesus and His 2nd coming so important that they included it in all three Christian Creeds / Statements of faith.

The Apostles Creed states: He (Jesus) Ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

The Nicene Creed States: And He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

The Athanasian Creed also states: He ascended into heaven; He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. At Whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give an account of their own works.

As Christians we live by faith, not by sight. (Hebrews 11:1)

In the Ascension of Jesus we know:

1. Jesus is KING – Jesus sits at the right hand of God. This is a reference to Christ’s Authority which encompasses all the universe. Heaven and the earth. Matthew 28:18 – Jesus Said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**”

2. Jesus INTERCEDES for us:

We can now approach God through Christ, and be certain that God hears our prayers in Christ Jesus our High Priest.

Romans 8:34, “Christ Jesus, who died – More than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

3. Jesus’ Ascension leads us to the ASSURANCE that we are also Heavenward bound. Not just as some spirit living in Goodness. But we also will live in heaven with glorified bodies in the flesh together with Christ who also ate after his Resurrection, and is also flesh and blood.

We also know from the Words of our Lord Jesus there on the Mount of Olives that while we are here in this world, that we have work to do. Jesus makes it very clear what that work is as He tells us:

Vs. 8 – be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We also know that Jesus will be coming again to take us and all believers to our heavenly home as the angels announced after Jesus had ascended into heaven.

Vs. 11 – “Men of Galilee,” they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

The Lord Jesus, Who is True God and True Man, has according to His infinite wisdom, Ascended into heaven. We cannot see Him with our eyes of flesh, but we can see Him with our eyes of faith, and we can approach Him anytime, anyplace for any reason **in prayer**, and we can always open up our Holy Bible and read His Word which He has graciously given to us and hear Him speak to us in that word.

The question is: Do we always like to listen to the Word He has given us? AMEN