

## **Ascension Sunday, May 24, 2020**

**Greeting:** God is good **all the time.** All the time **God is good.**

### **Question of the Day**

**Hymn** “In Fear the World Is Weeping”

### **Call to Worship**

In awe and wonder, we lift our eyes to the heavens.  
We raise our songs of joy to the Ruler of all time and space.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

We celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus.

**We rejoice in the hope to which Christ has called us.**

We seek a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

**We seek to be filled with power from on high.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**As Christ ascended to heaven, our spirits are lifted to you this day, O God. Focus our limited understanding on the person of Jesus, that all he did and taught might come alive in us. We welcome your Holy Spirit at work in our worship and in our lives. Amen.**

### **Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### **Acts 1:6-14 NRSV**

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is 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.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

## **Time of Prayer**

### **How Is It With Your Soul?**

#### **Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to God, who assures us of new life through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior.**

*(Time of silent prayer.)*

#### **Assurance**

Sisters and brothers, as Christ is our witness, God's power to pardon is immeasurable. Therefore proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth: through the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. And with Jesus the Christ we pray:

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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. Amen.**

## **Answer to Question of the Day**

### **Time of Offering**

*Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity – sending your offering to the church (709 W. Pine St., New London, WI 54961); or by giving online at [www.WisconsinUMC.org](http://www.WisconsinUMC.org). If you, or someone you know, is struggling to put food on the table or to meet expenses, please contact Pastor Joyce (920-982-4703).*

#### **Offering Prayer**

**O God of all glory and majesty, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, and his power at work in our lives and our gifts. Bless these gifts for the benefits they afford in bringing life to others in your name. Bless our lives that we may be your witnesses to the end of the earth as we love and serve you, O God most high. Amen.**

**Message “It Is Not For You to Know” Rev. Joyce Rich**

### **Commission and Blessing**

The life and teachings of Jesus point us to God's reign.  
God promises to empower our witness.

**Through revelation, we will know more of Christ.**

**Through the work God gives us, we will grow as disciples.**

May the glory of God fill us with praise,  
the beauty of Christ strengthen us in service,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit fill us with peace.  
Amen. **And Amen.**

**Hymn “Shout to the Lord”**

**Announcements; Reading For Next Week: Acts 2:1-21**

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