



## Lord's Day Worship

May 3, 2020

### Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read Rev. 5:1-5 aloud and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

### Riverwood Family Greeting

Harold Sprayberry

### Opening Hymn

*"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"*

### Elder Greeting & Pastoral Prayer

Ron Scarbrough

### Song of Praise

*"Before the Throne of God Above"*

### The Teaching of the Word

Credo – Part 13 – "Our Ascended Lord"

### Song of Response

*"Lion & the Lamb"*

### Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Rom. 15:5-6

# CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 13

"Our Ascended Lord"

3 May 2020

## Introduction: True Mindfulness

- In recent years, the mindfulness movement has spread throughout our culture, encouraging the use of meditation or mental focus to "reduce stress & anxiety, and increase wellness." While there is nothing wrong with being introspective and analyzing our emotions, the Bible continually encourages us to look away from ourselves and unto God.

Rom. 8:5-6—<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

**Key Point:** As believers in Jesus, we are to recognize the significance of Jesus' Ascension in order that we might continually reset the focus of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED  
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 & WAS BURIED,  
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,  
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE DEAD  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE  
FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE  
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.  
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;  
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;  
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.  
AMEN.

## The Work of the Son: His Ascension

"The ascension of Christ is important theology because, on the one hand, it is the second step in the exaltation of Christ beginning at His resurrection, and, on the other hand, because it begins His present work." — John Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*

"Thus Christian hope, Christian life, Christian faith and Christian theology and all inextricably bound up with the exalted Christ."  
— Peter Orr, *Exalted Above the Heavens: The Risen and Ascended Christ*

- We believe that the Lord Jesus ascended *bodily* to Heaven.**

Acts 1:6-9—<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But 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." <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

⇒ **The ascension affirms that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_!**

\* Jesus has forever added humanity to His person (Phil. 2:5-11).

\* Jesus' exalted humanity is the assurance that we who have been redeemed spiritually will be redeemed bodily (1 Cor. 15:45-50).

**Key Point:** Jesus' ascension gives us assurance that we will spend eternity in God's \_\_\_\_\_!

Rev. 21:3—And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Rev. 22:3-4—<sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

- We believe that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father.**

Mark 16:19-20—<sup>19</sup> So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

⇒ **The ascension affirms that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_!**

Acts 2:32-33,36—<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing...

<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

\* The ascended Lord Jesus has taken up the place of all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Rev. 3:21—The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

- \* The ascended Lord Jesus is active on behalf of His people both in \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_.

In Heaven:

1. Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

John 15:4-5—<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ on our behalf.

Rom. 8:33-35—<sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Heb. 7:24-25—<sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

On Earth:

1. Jesus is making sure the \_\_\_\_\_ goes forth.

Matt. 28:18-20—<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ His Church.

Eph. 1:22-23—<sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

3. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

Eph. 5:25-27,29—<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor...that she might be holy and without blemish...<sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

**Key Point:** Jesus' ascension gives us assurance that He is able to complete His work \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Phil. 1:6—And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 5:9-10—<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God and they shall reign on the earth."

## Concluding Thoughts

1. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we should be \_\_\_\_\_ with the most important things.

Col. 3:1-3—<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

2. Having our minds are set on our risen and reigning Lord Jesus has significant results:

Luke 24:52-53—<sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Mark 16:20—And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Acts 1:10-11—<sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and 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."