

NORTHWOOD UMC WORSHIP – May 24, 2020 Ascension Sunday

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK – Luke 24:51-53

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.^[c] ⁵² And they worshiped him, and^[d] returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.^[e]

WELCOME/CHECKING IN

Where do you... see God? Need God? Feel Joy? Feel Gratitude?

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP –

L: Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!

P: Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.

L: Jesus asked all of his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.

P: We are numbered among these friends!

L: Open your hearts today. Hear God's special word just for you!

P: Lord, help us to be ready to receive your word and to live in your love. AMEN.

GATHERING UNISON PRAYER

Gracious Lord, this morning we come to you with so many things on our hearts. Keep our hearts and our minds open to your words of healing and of hope. Give us spirits of courage for all the times ahead. We ask your blessing on all those this day who are afflicted with illness and debilitating diseases, for those who mourn, for those who feel lost and alienated from family and from friends. Be with these dear people. Help them to feel your comforting and restoring presence. Give to us also, Lord, a spirit of peace and joy that we might live your love through our attitudes and actions. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

HYMN – “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” UMH #154 vs.1,2,3,4

KINGDOM TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC

“In My Life/Amazing Grace – Music by Phyllis Kruell, Video by Ted Plys

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[a] is to

suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses^[b] of these things.⁴⁹ 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.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.^[c]⁵² And they worshiped him, and^[d] returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.^[e]

Psalm 47

God’s Rule over the Nations

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves .*Selah*

⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷ For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^[a]

⁸ God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

⁹ 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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE – “Unexpected Endings”

INVITATION TO GIVE TO THE LIVING CHRIST

Ourselves, Our Love, and Our Gifts
Presentation of our Gifts and Offerings:

Mail your offering to:

Northwood UMC, P.O. Box 295, Esko, MN 55733

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – UMH #883

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN – “He is Exalted” FWS #2070

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION/DISMISSAL

SHALOM – UMH #666

Shalom to you now. Shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies, bless you my friends
In all your living, and through your loving.
Christ be your Shalom. Christ be your Shalom.