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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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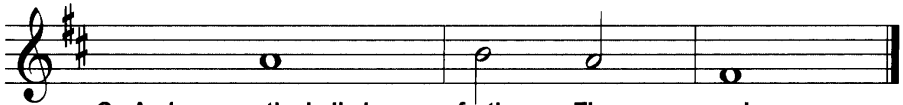
Church Year: Ascension (May 17, 2012)

† *The Order of Ascension Worship* †

Hymn:.....TLH 217: Oh, Sing with Exultation

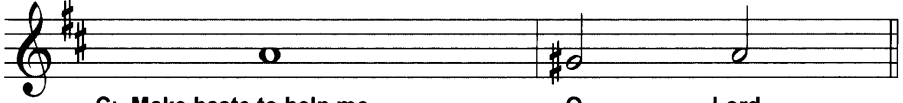
Opening Liturgy:.....TLH, p. 32 ff., The Order of Matins

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.



C: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

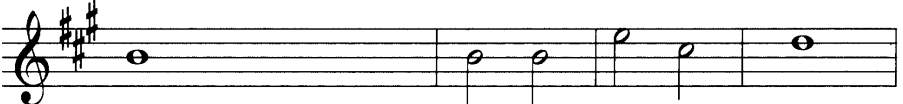
P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

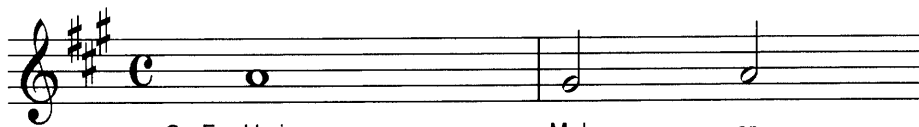


As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

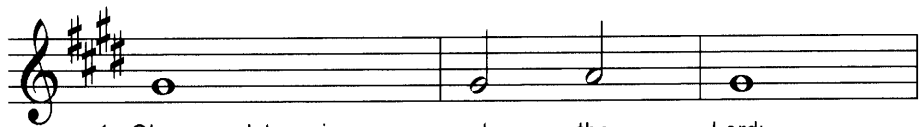


world with-out end. A - men. Hal-le - lu - jah!

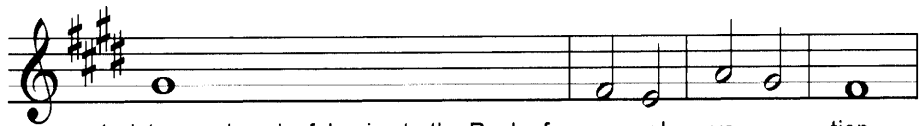
P: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord:



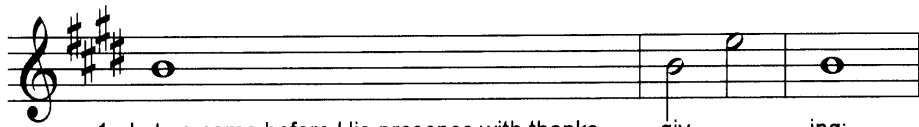
C: For He is our Mak - er.



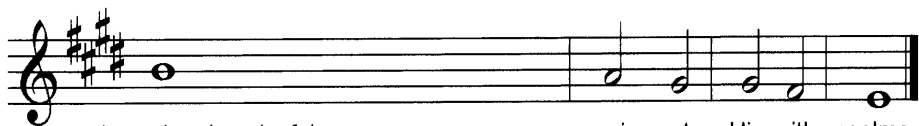
1. Oh, come, let us sing unto the Lord:
2. For the Lord is a great God:
3. The sea is His, and He made it:
5. Glory be to the Father and to the Son:



1. let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our sal - va - tion.
2. and a great King a - bove all gods.
3. and His hands form-ed the dry land.
5. and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



1. Let us come before His presence with thanks - giv - ing:
2. In His hand are the deep places of the earth:
3. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:
4. For He is our God:
5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



1. and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
2. the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3. let us kneel before the Lord, our Mak - er.
4. and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5. world with - out end. A - men.

Responsive Psalm:.....Psalm 47

P: Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C: Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

P: For the LORD Most High is awesome;

C: He is a great King over all the earth.

P: He will subdue the peoples under us,

C: And the nations under our feet.

P: He will choose our inheritance for us,

C: The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P: For God is the King of all the earth;

C: Sing praises with understanding.

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on His holy throne.

P: The princes of the people have gathered together, The people of the God of Abraham.

C: For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.

First Reading:.....Luke 24:44-53

Jesus ascends into heavenly glory.

Second Reading:.....Ephesians 1:16-23

God's Son is exalted above all things, giving us great hope.

Ascension Creed:.....Article 3, Augsburg Confession



I believe that God the Son became man, born of the virgin Mary, and the two natures, divine and human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ, true God and true man, who was truly born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried in order to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to propitiate God's wrath. The same Christ also descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, that He may eternally rule and have dominion over all creatures, that through the Holy Spirit he may sanctify, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in Him, that He may bestow on them life and every grace and blessing, and that He may protect and defend them against the devil and against sin. The same Lord Jesus Christ will return openly to judge the living and the dead, as stated in the Apostolic Creed.

Hymn:.....TLH 215: DRAW US TO THEE

The Ascension Message:..... John 17:1-4

¹ Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (NKJVTM)

It's as Good as Done!

Hymn:..... US 738: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn:..... TLH 555: The Day Is Past and Over

CLC E-Devotion

Thursday, May 13, 2010 (Ascension Day)

Mark 16:19-20 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

WHO IS YOUR RIGHT HAND MAN?

"God's right hand and holy arm has won the victory ..." is a choir hymn that sounds in my mind whenever I read or hear of God's "right hand." But is the Bible contradicting itself? After all, Jesus Himself said as recorded in John 4:24 that "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." If God is a Spirit, then how can He have a right arm? This is a commonly asked question.

Answer? "An-thro-po-morph-ism." That's a fancy term for how God describes Himself with terms in which we "anthropoids" (humans) can understand. The same would be true of Psalm 33:18 which says, "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy." God's "eye" sees all. Our finite minds cannot comprehend our All-mighty God, and all things are possible with Him.

So when we think of our God flexing His "right arm" of power we know He's not one to cross. But God's "right hand" as described in these last two verses of the Gospel of Mark reveals something else extraordinary. "The right hand of God" is the place where our Lord Jesus Christ sat down. After Jesus rose from the dead that Easter morning and ascended into heaven 40 days later, He has taken His position as the Father's "right hand man." It's quite a picture for us because that position is historically known among mankind to be the "position of power." Jesus has been given "all authority in heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18) to carry out the rule of His kingdom.

The result of Christ's rule has eternal benefits beyond comprehension. Jesus Christ, true God and true man, has given the command to share His Word of authority and power to all people. In His almighty power He comforts you and me with His mercy, forgiveness, and with His promise that He intercedes now ... as our "right hand man" also!