

## DEVOTION FOR THE SEVENTH FRIDAY OF EASTER

### PSALM 47

**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!**

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom  
He loved.

**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.

**For God is the King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is  
seated on His holy throne.**

The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to  
God; He is greatly exalted.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Old Testament Reading: Numbers 20:1-29 *Judgement on Moses and Aaron*

New Testament Reading: Luke 24:36-53 *The Ascension*

### “ASCENSION”

Ascension marks the close of Jesus' earthly ministry. During the forty days following His resurrection, Jesus appeared at various times to His disciples. This was to confirm the reality of the resurrection in the hearts of those who believed. Because after His Ascension, the world would only see Him through those who believe in Him. With Christ's Ascension, the Father acknowledged Jesus as the only way of salvation. As it says in the letter to Philippians, *“God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Ascension is the crowning glory of the work of salvation that began with the promise of the Savior spoken to Eve and Adam and echoed through the prophets. Ascension is our assurance that when we call on the name of Jesus that God hears and that for the sake of Jesus, He will answer, help and save.

When Jesus ascended into heaven angels told the disciples, *“This same Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”* In the book of Revelation, seven angels successively sound their trumpets, to signify the progress of God's work of salvation. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, a chorus of heavenly voices declare the fulfillment of the Lamb's work of salvation, saying, *“The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.”* The work of salvation will be fulfilled, when Christ returns and the kingdoms of the world become His kingdom. Then the petition *“Thy kingdom come.”* will be answered fully and forever.

We thank God for the salvation He has prepared for us in Christ Jesus. Although we cannot touch and see Him, as when He walked on the earth, He is present in our fellowship and in the sacrament of His body and blood. He speaks to us by His Spirit, through His word. He is near as a prayer! We look forward to the day we will no longer see Him through these means, but face to face. And so we say, *“Come Lord Jesus.”*

**“ON CHRIST’S ASCENSION NOW I BUILD” CCLI #453681**

**On Christ’s ascension I now build. The hope of my ascension;  
This hope has always stilled all doubt and apprehension;  
For where the head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.**

**Since Christ returned to claim His throne, great gifts for me obtaining.  
My heart will rest in Him alone, no other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts will ever soar,  
To still their deepest yearning.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, recalling your ascension.  
That I may serve you faithfully, in thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace,  
In answer to my pleading.**

**PRAYER**

Lord Jesus when you ascended on high and resumed your place at the right hand of God far above all rule, authority, power and dominion in this age and in the age to come, you poured out your Spirit and gave blessings to the church and to all people through the church. You gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be pastors and teachers “*to equip the saints for the work of ministry,*” for building up the body of Christ. Bless the church on earth in the work you have given it, to proclaim the gospel of salvation to all nations on earth. Bless us in our part of your body and in our share of the work. Call us up to you that we may share in your resurrection and see the glory you have had with the Father from eternity. Amen

**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 and ever. Amen**

**THE 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 and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

**Ephesians 4:7-8**

**“But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says,  
‘When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.’”**