

PRAYERS for May 21, 2023 – The Ascension of the Lord

Worship Assistant: As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, let us praise the name of the Lord and pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Worship Assistant: Lord God, we come to You in prayer as Jesus invited us to do when He ascended on high. We graciously thank You for giving us Your Son as a perfect example of a perfect love. We thank and praise You that You raised Your Son from the dead, seated Him at Your right hand, and placed all things under His feet that He might rule in majesty. Unite all believers who gather in Your name to give honor and glory to You, our God and our Father.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Lord Jesus Christ, You are all glorious. You bore the cross; You endured the shame; You tasted death; then You rose in might and splendor. With Your ascension, You removed Your visible self from us so that we might believe in spirit and in truth. We truly wait for the day when You will return, although it is not for us to know the time or the place. We look forward to You coming again, but we know that You have given us work to do while we await Your return. Give us grace and kindness, patience and perseverance, courage and strength to minister to those in need of our help and those in need of Your Word.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Loving Spirit, as we have come to the end of our Sunday School classes, we give thanks for our students who have been growing in their knowledge of You. We give thanks for the children who have worked hard to memorize Your precious words and have fixed them in their hearts. We give thanks for the teachers who have led our children and adults through the study of Your Word this year. You have truly blessed them with beautiful gifts to teach, guide, and witness to You. We give You thanks for Your children who have received all special honors and recognition during this past year. Bless them as they move along their earthly journey knowing that You are walking with them.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Healing God, make us people of faith and hope. We ask You to comfort the ill, the injured, the depressed, the lonely, the anxious, and the grieving. If we become discouraged, remind us to turn to You. If we grow weary, lead us to look for strength in You. When we face adversity, guide us to seek Your will and trust Your Word. Help us not be discouraged when sufferings come upon us, but bless our hearts with sympathy and understanding so that we might assist others through their pain and darkness. Be with all our friends and families who are on our prayer list and those whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.*

Worship Assistant: Glorious Father, You have appointed Your Son as Lord of the nations. Teach our leaders to praise Your name; to love justice and righteousness; and to seek those things that make for peace. Keep in Your care all who stand in harm's way to right wrongs, establish safety, and protect life and liberty. Bring them home safely and soon. Sanctify the members and the ministries of Word of God and make our worship into a joyful duty and our service into a sacrifice of praise. Use us to lead others to Jesus.

Lord, in Your mercy..... *hear our prayer.* **Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**