

The Ascension of Our Lord 2020  
Luke 24

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine  
Chase the shades of night away/Turn my darkness into day.  
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.  
Show those glorious truths to me/Which are only known to Thee.  
Amen.

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <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.<sup>1</sup>

In the Name of Jesus.

It's only fitting! The Gospel according to Saint Luke ENDS as it begins: with GREAT JOY!

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, **"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."** <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

and—oooh! Let's not say it ENDS with great joy. No, no! It's ANOTHER beginning: of the Church; waiting, hoping, expecting, the Promise of the Father. The Son ascended and the disciples returned to Jerusalem with **great joy!** For they KNEW now—Jesus had opened their minds!—they KNEW what He was ascending to do: 'Dear Father, you PROMISED, that after I suffered and rose from the dead, You PLEDGED, on Your Own Name!, that after My Ascension, YOU would give My friends, even MORE! Because—Dear YOU!—my friends need more, and more, and more...

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:50–Jn). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

MORE nations—not just one!

MORE repentance and MORE forgiveness of sins!

MORE...OF: US!’

The Father and the Son and...they are not done GIVING: of THEMSELVES!

FROM the Father AND...FROM The Son—and here, the ancient Creed rejoices in just the word that Son uses Himself! The Holy Spirit ‘PROCEEDS’ from them, BOTH—

BUT WAIT! There is only One God! Yup! Rejoice!

BUT WAIT! He speaks of Himself, that One God, as if He were THREE! Yessirree, Bob! The ONE God is THREE in one:

FOR...ONE...REASON!!!!!!

To give to you, to me, to Israel, to the nations: great joy!

This is never going to be printed in a book of doctrine and theology; because there’s something terribly wrong with such books.

Real God IS Triune—One God in Three Persons; Three Individual, and Yet Remaining One—

FOR...A...REASON!

For you. Even for me.

Psalm 47, assigned today; MORE today:

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy! <sup>2</sup>

My dear ones: were you irked a bit, reciting that Psalm before? WHY should ALL peoples clap and sing –with volume!—songs of JOY? Psalm 47 has some language, that, ummm....

Well, the OLD Covenant people asked for, lusted for, prayed for—DEMANDED!—a thug, a tough guy, a king—‘LIKE all the OTHER NATIONS!—

Because WITH that play-god idol in the flesh, THEY would not only have GOD’S WORD that God is with them. THEY would have someone—made of flesh!—to satisfy the lusts of their hearts and the lust of their eyes and the pride of life....

WE will SHOW them other nations! U...S...A! U...S...A!  
IS...RA...EL! IS...RA...EL!

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet. <sup>3</sup>

In short: OUR God—the God Who names Himself BY US, by ONE People, By the children of Jacob....

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<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ps 47:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ps 47:2–3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.<sup>4</sup>

OUR GOD—and US by extension—WE’re in charge of this  
place now. Like it or lump it!

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He’s hidden in there, my dear ones. The Christ is: what Real God has in mind about ruling and running things. And before He Ascended—even BEFORE the VISIBLE sending of Our Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost—Jesus opened their minds so that they would know—so that all nations would know: Real God can ONLY reach us with the words and structures WE lust after and desire: kings and power and giving ‘what-for’ and nods of the head: uh-huh!

. And yet, Real God remains Real God. What NO MAN lusts for.

He’s hidden there; even in Psalm 47. Perhaps you caught it quicker than your poor pastor:

<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.  
<sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.<sup>5</sup>

The nations; their princes; their bullies and boasters; the people:

HE gathers them, REIGNS over them—praise God!—

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<sup>4</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 47:4). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>5</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 47:8–9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

AS...THE...PEOPLE...OF...THE...GOD...OF...ABRAHAM!

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

<sup>9</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup> This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ...

<sup>14</sup> Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

<sup>15</sup> And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” <sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” <sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>19</sup> God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup> As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. <sup>21</sup> But I will

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<sup>6</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ge 17:1–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

<sup>22</sup> When he had finished talking with him, *God went up from Abraham.*<sup>7</sup>

God went up from Abraham.

But now:

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

God went up from the students, the followers, of a Man this world CANNOT stand. Because: CLEARLY, He ain't got no POWER!

It came clear to them: the Gospel. We asked the Holy Spirit to turn the lights on for us too. Here's His light, as your poor pastor sees it.

King or no king, Old Israel lived and died from orientation toward Real God; and copying and pasting on each neighbor—in Old Israel—the godly desires taught them from the Ten Commandments; even patching up gaps and failings and forgiving sins.

And what did that lead to? What it leads to in every nation with every pile of those clambering over one another to be king of the hill and 'be...in...charge...'

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<sup>7</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ge 17:19–22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Partisanship: ‘The guy in charge has the power and the money; better the devil you know; as long as he’s MY GUY in charge, he can live by the law or not! But I MUST get the lust of my eyes and the lust of my heart and live a life of PRIDE!’

WHAT...to DO....with THIS Christ, This Son of David, This King?

<sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup>

AND...

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”<sup>10</sup>

OOOHHH!!!!

He says MORE; gives MORE; IS...MORE....

<sup>21</sup> In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden

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<sup>8</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 15:4–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>9</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 10:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>10</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 10:19–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>22</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

<sup>23</sup> Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” <sup>11</sup>

What joy is ours, my friends? How great?

The One Who ASCENDED will DESCEND. HE will judge the living and the dead....

JOY! Unbounded...JOY!

—it will NOT be ME judging the living and the dead! You neither! And so, the Spirit calls on us to practice that even now: don’t YOU decide who is fit for Real God to RULE! Not yourself; not the next man; not any peoples.

That’s why they laughed at Him while He suffered on the cross, the day He lost an election to a thug, named Barabbas: a REAL TOUGH guy, ready to start a revolution and better this world, even if it means murder!

<sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ

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<sup>11</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 10:21–24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.



of God, his Chosen One!”<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine<sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”<sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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If you need to learn Real God all over again, every morning:  
Great Joy is YOURS! For THAT is what you were baptized for!  
To rise each day with nothing to the credit and nothing to the debit;  
ready for a day of your King, giving to you!

If you need to make some changes in your life: Great Joy is YOURS! Start new good deeds; cut off old deeds of evil. But BEFORE any of that: REJOICE that the Eleven apostles left at that time were told by God—in the Flesh—before He went up in their presence: His reign begins and ends with forgiveness for the few who still need it, until He comes again. His LITTLE flock.

Have no fear, little flock! Have no fear, little flock!  
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.  
Have no fear, little flock!

If the next man—or a man far away? A man on the TV?—if the next man takes away the good feelings and temporary rush those headed to damnation call ‘JOY’—

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<sup>12</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:33–44). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Well, Jesus MUST be praying for the Father to keep His Promise! To send us the Spirit unlike the countless spirits trying to take from us and tear us down.

For today, King Jesus gives to a few, His Body and His Blood, to eat and to drink. For what?

To pardon us from perhaps the worst sin of all! How quickly do we forget: when the next man acts the child; when someone who knows better just will not learn; when people can keep six feet away, shield us from their gases and STILL annoy the dickens out of us...!

King Jesus comes ALL the way from heaven—(Just joking. Heaven is not DISTANCE away. Heaven is only as far away as the Gifts of His Spirit!)

King Jesus rules us today, by calling us to repentance; but FIRST, by forgiving this sin:

How quickly we forget what He taught us! That WHEN.... WE are in HIS place, and ALL... we can do is BEAR with and pardon and PRAY for the next man—Heaven...has...NEVER... poured out upon US, greater Joy in the Name of Jesus! Amen!