

*SUNDAY MORNING – Pastor P. van der Hoek  
May 5, 2024 – Ascension Day Observed*

Pre-service Psalter 129:1,3\*\*

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 58 \*\*

Reading of the Law: Deuteronomy 5

Psalter 333:1,4\*\*

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:50-53 & Ephesians 4:1-16

Congregational Prayer

Offerings for the Lord's service (2 collections)

Psalter 420:1,4-5\*\*

**Text: Ephesians 4:8**

**Theme: Ascension Blessings**

**1. Christ-Exalting Victory**

**2. Church-Enriching Gifts**

Prayer

Psalter 183\*\*

Benediction

Doxology: "Praise God..." \*\*

\*\* Please stand if you are able

**Family Sermon Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the text (Eph. 4:8) relate to:
  - a. Ascension?
  - b. Psalm 68?
  - c. King David bringing the Ark to Jerusalem?
  - d. A victorious king?
  
2. What does it mean that Christ "led captivity captive"? Who/what are the enemies that Christ triumphed over? How/where did He triumph?
  
3. What kind of Ascension blessings does Christ give? How does that relate to His victory?
  
4. To whom does Christ give gifts? What does that say about His generosity and grace?
  
5. What different gifts does Christ give to His church and what is His goal in giving those gifts?
  
6. \* What happened on the day of the Lord Jesus' Ascension? What did the Lord Jesus do with his hands? Why did He do that? What gifts does the Lord Jesus give to His people? Do you remember the little story at the end of the message? What do we need to learn from that? \*

SUNDAY EVENING – Pastor P. van der Hoek  
May 5, 2024

Pre-service Psalter 83:1-2\*\*

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 141 \*\*

Scripture Reading: Hosea 14

*Belgic Confession of Faith Article 12*

Congregational Prayer

Offerings for the Lord's service (2 collections)

Psalter 365 \*\*

Text: Hosea 14:1-3

**Series: Hosea 14 – Faithful Love**

**Theme: Returning to the Lord**

**1. Why do we need to return?**

**2. What does it mean to return?**

**3. How can we return?**

**4. To whom do we return?**

Prayer

Psalter 378\*\*

Benediction

Doxology: 306:1,4\*\*

\*\* Please stand if enabled

-----  
**Reason for sermon series:**

Lord willing, we hope to celebrate the Lord's Supper on May 26. Since next week we hope to visit Arkansas and the series is a four-part series I preached before. I have decided to already do a preparatory message this Sunday. The second (preparatory) message in the series will be on May 19, during the PM service, Lord willing.

**Family Sermon Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe the background and problem of the people of Israel during the time of Hosea? How is this linked to the history of Hosea and Gomer?
2. What makes the return of a sinner to the Lord so special? What must we learn about the heart of God toward returning sinners?
3. We saw in our text four different types of words that we need to bring to the Lord. What are they? And how are they applicable to your life? How are they applicable for preparatory week?
4. What is so special about the mercy which the Lord shows to the fatherless? How does the New Testament shed light on this?
5. How does this passage lead us to worship Christ? Where do we see His love and faithfulness in this text?
6. \* Why did Israel need to return to the Lord? What does it mean to return to the Lord? How can we return to the Lord? How does the Lord receive us when we return to Him? \*

\* Questions for younger children