



ASCENSION DAY  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
May 26, 2022

# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 26, 2022

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Theme: “Where Is the Hope?”**

**AS WE GATHER:** Where is the hope? We live in a world where people are hungering for hope amid climate disasters, viruses, and failures of institutions and trusted leaders. There is a void in the marketplace for hope, which many try to fill with the latest fad, a get-rich-quick scheme, or by trusting in human institutions run by fallen humanity. Ascension gives us real hope. It reminds us that God loves us so much He sent His one and only Son to redeem us through His crucifixion and resurrection. Following the resurrection, Jesus walked the earth for forty days before ascending to heaven while promising us that He is with us always—in His Word, His Sacraments, and among His people. That is our hope.

## PRELUDE

*Special thanks to Phyllis Ernsberger for her musical leadership in our worship this evening.*

## WELCOME

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Psalm 110:1, 4–5; ant. Psalm 47:5*

- P** God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- C** **The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”**
- P** The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind,
- C** **“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”**
- P** The LORD is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings on the day of His wrath.
- C** **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.**
- P** God has gone up with a shout,
- C** **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

## HYMN

### “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with His faithful foll'wers see  
Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To whom two shining angels cry,  
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
“This is the Savior,” thus they say;  
“This is His glorious triumph day!”  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“You see Him now, ascending high  
Up to the portals of the sky.”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
Returning in great majesty.”  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△  
O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to You let earth accord:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins before God and one another.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We are guilty of placing our hopes and dreams in the people, places, and things of this world, which are here today and tomorrow are thrown in the fire. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who lived, died, rose, and ascended to Your right hand, and lead us to bear witness to the real hope we have in You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**
- P** As a called and ordained servant of our ascended Lord Jesus and by His power and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.
- P** Go in peace and bear witness to the hope that is yours because of Jesus!  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.  
Risen and ascended Lord, enlighten our hearts that we may know the hope to which You have called us. Center our faith in You. Strengthen us for what lies ahead as we embrace the promise of a better future; for You live and reign the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ THE WORD OF GOD ✠

### FIRST READING

**Acts 1:1–11 (ESV)**

(You will be My witnesses.)

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, “you heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 47*

**P** Clap your hands, all peoples!

**C** **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

**P** For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

*Piano Side:* *He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.*

*Pulpit Side:* *He chose our heritage for us, the pride 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; sing praises with a psalm!

*Piano Side:* *God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.*

*Pulpit Side:* *The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.*

**C** **For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!**

**EPISTLE**

**Ephesians 1:15–23 (ESV)**

(Our hope is tied to the ascension.)

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might <sup>20</sup> that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the

dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 24:44–53 (ESV)**

(The ascension of Jesus.)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” <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. *[The Paschal candle is extinguished]* <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.

- P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

## HYMN

**“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”**  
(tune: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice)

On Christ’s ascension I now build  
The hope of mine ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled





**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.**

## **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, we live in a world filled with hopelessness and fear. Yet You give fruits of the spirit of love and self-control, not fear. Lead us as we proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Your name to all nations. Ascended Lord,

**C** **empower us to be witnesses of hope.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we lift up to You those who are grieving. We pray that they do not grieve as those who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. Ascended Lord,

**C** **empower us to be witnesses of hope.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are struggling with physical and mental health challenges. Give them strength to meet the days ahead—healing of body, mind, and spirit—and ever-present reminders that You are always with them. Ascended Lord,

**C** empower us to be witnesses of hope.

**P** Lord Jesus, some may trust in horses and chariots, but we trust in the Lord, our God. As we put our trust in You, we pray for our elected leaders and ask that You lead them with Your wisdom, that they govern diligently and faithfully. Ascended Lord,

**C** empower us to be witnesses of hope.

**P** Lord Jesus, we look forward to that day when You will beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. As we wait for that day, we ask that You watch over and work through all first responders and members of the military to bring peace and healing to our community and world. Ascended Lord,

**C** empower us to be witnesses of hope.

**P** Lord Jesus, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy. In Your holy name, we pray.

**C** Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **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.**

## CLOSING ACCLAMATION

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**P** Christ is ascended!  
**C** **He is ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** Christ has risen from the dead.  
**C** **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

**P** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;  
**C** **He has put all things under His feet.**

**P** We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.  
**C** **“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen!**

**BENEDICTION**            *Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

**HYMN**                    **“Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul and sing Of Him who died for Thee;  
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave.  
Who rose victorious to the strife, For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high.  
Who died eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to Whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is King of all.

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace to love, serve, and proclaim Jesus, our risen and ascended Lord!  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## Our Mission Statement:

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## Our Vision Statement:

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission”*

from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases:  
Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## STAFF

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