



*The Ascension  
of Our Lord*

Ascension Lutheran Church  
*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*  
Thursday, May 9, 2024

## ASCENSION DAY

**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.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:**

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*)

**Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy:** *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

## + PREPARATION +

### “This Ending Is a New Beginning”

**AS WE GATHER:** While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus’ ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

## PRELUDE

### “All Hail The Pow’r Of Jesus’ Name”

Melody by O. Holden/arr. by L. Larson

**Handbell Choir**

## WELCOME

### “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB 493

- 1 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!
  
- 2 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!

- 3 To them the 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!
- 4 “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!
- 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,  
 And be our future great reward.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Then, throned with You forever, we  
 Shall praise Your name eternally.  
 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing, Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!
- C** Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!
- P** Today is a day of celebration, thanksgiving, and anticipation.
- C** We celebrate our Lord’s triumph and reign.
- P** We celebrate His promise to always be with us.
- C** We anticipate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 47:2-3; 124:8

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

**C** **He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** Let us confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

**C** **We confess before God and before one another that we have failed to live in the image of Christ. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

**P** We stand guilty before our Father in heaven and are in need of His forgiveness.

**C** **Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**P** Because of and in Christ's continued presence through all our days,

**C** **renew us and strengthen us for Christ-like living and service in Your Kingdom until the day when we ascend to the heavenly realm where we shall be in the presence of Christ forever and ever.**

**P** Jesus Christ, your ascended Lord, has heard your confession, and He alone has the power to forgive all sin. His presence and grace are enough for us in this time and eternally. God has promised His merciful forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus, to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and finally bring you to live with Him forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## + THE WORD +

### FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

<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>To them He presented Himself alive 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.”

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

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

## **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 READING

Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)

<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 a 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.

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53 (ESV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] 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 and 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>Then 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 the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”**

- 1 On Christ’s ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build, Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt., Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

**SERMON**  
**“PARDON THE INTERRUPTION”**

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
Acts1:1-11

## “MAJESTY”

Majesty, worship His majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority

Flow from His throne unto His own, His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty.

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

Majesty, ©Hayford, Jack© 1981 Rocksmith Music CCLI License No. 759893

## SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED and Luther's Explanation

**P** Jesus fulfilled all Scripture as the Word made flesh. Forty days after His victory over sin, death, and the devil by His rising from the dead, He ascended into heaven. Believing in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, as our Lord and Savior and humanity's redemption and source of all salvation, we focus on the Small Catechism's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, which we confess together:

**C** **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.**

**P** *What does this mean?*

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## 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.)*

### **“At The Name of Jesus”**

Words by C. Noel and E. Perronet/Music by L. Larson  
**Ascension Choir**

*At the name of Jesus ev’ry knee shall bow,  
Ev’ry tongue confess Him King of glory now;  
‘tis the Father’s pleasure that we should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

*Humbled for a season,  
To receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom He came,  
Faithfully He bore it spotless to the end,  
Brought it back victorious, Jesus, Savior, Friend.*

*In your hearts enthrone Him;  
There let Him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true.  
Crown Him King of glory in temptation’s hour;  
Let His will enfold you in its light and power.*

### **(CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING):**

***All hail the power of Jesus’ name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!***

*At the name of Jesus ev’ry knee shall bow,  
And ev’ry tongue confess Him King of glory now!  
Crown Him Lord of all!*

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Risen, ascended, and glorified Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant us grace that we may recognize Your presence in Word and Sacrament and receive there the fruits of Your redeeming work until You come again to deliver us into Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Sustain Your church, O Lord, that she may be faithful in all that You have given her to do and be kept in unity of doctrine and life through the days of trial until at last the church in heaven and the church on earth are one in Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Order all things on earth by Your Word that those entrusted with the leadership of the nations may fulfill Your purpose in the pursuit of peace, justice, and godliness on behalf of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Supply to the sick and those who suffer the grace to sustain them in the day of their trouble and give comfort to the dying and those who mourn. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us by Your grace to lead a holy and godly life, worthy of our calling as Your own people by Baptism and faith, and help us to give witness to the hope that is within us before a world in darkness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we bring with our lips and the tithes and offerings of our hands as the worship acceptable in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Having in remembrance all those who have loved Your appearing and who now rest in Your mercy, we pray for that day when we shall join with them in the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom without end.
- C** **Glory, honor, blessing, and praise to You, O risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen.

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## 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."  
Alleluia! Amen!

## BENEDICTION

**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.

## “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly 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.
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.  
Behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes  
At mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in 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.
- 5 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.

Crown Him with Many Crowns, Text (sts. 1, 3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, Text: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**G** Thanks be to God.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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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.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## **STAFF**

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