



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
Ascension of Our Lord ~ May 13, 2021

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 13, 2021

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!

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 Lord's 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 Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians, (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine, (3) confess and repent of one's 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 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 comulgan 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 obleas libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición).

(P) = Pastor, (C) = Congregation, (A) = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Jesus Is Enough”

AS WE GATHER

“I’ll see you soon!” So says the parent, spouse, or friend leaving for an errand or a short trip, with certainty that time together will soon be had again. “I’ll see you soon!” so says Jesus as He departs and ascends into heaven. And though it has not been hours or days or even weeks, rather nearly two thousand years later, we still hold to the certainty of His promise that we shall see Him again soon at His time. Until that day, though, we are wise to not stay looking up into the sky, as the disciples began to do long ago. Rather, we heed His mission to make disciples and keep ourselves prepared for that day. Even as we long to see Him soon, we know that Jesus is enough for us every day, and we take comfort in the fact that our ascended Lord Jesus remains present with us now, in this life, even amid troubles and trials. We hold on to His promises by the faith given, and we anticipate that joyful day when He will come again in the same way He was taken up into heaven.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

(tune: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia!” – *LLANFAIR*)

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!
To His throne beyond the skies! Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There for Him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates. Alleluia!
He has conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
Take the King of Glory in! Alleluia!

Still for us He intercedes; Alleluia!
His atoning death He pleads, Alleluia!
Near Himself prepares our place, Alleluia!
He, the firstfruits of our race. Alleluia!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

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 that 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 then 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 Christlike 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. forever.
- C** Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

PSALM 47

Antiphon (1st time – Cantor, 2nd time – ALL, then as indicated below)



God has gone up with a shout, | The Lord with the sound of a trum-pet.

(Verses: Odd – Cantor; **Even – ALL**)



(Antiphon – see previous page)

¹Clap your hands, all | peoples!*
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

**²For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.**

³He subdued peoples | under us,*
and nations un- | der our feet.

**⁴He chose our heritage | for us,*
the pride of Jacob | whom He loves. (Antiphon)**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**⁶Sing praises to God, sing | praises!*
Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!**

⁷For God is the King of | all the earth;*
sing praises | with a psalm! **(Antiphon)**

**⁸God reigns over the | nations,*
God sits on His | holy throne.**

⁹The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of | Abraham.*
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly ex- | alted! **(Antiphon)**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11 (ESV)

(The Ascension of Jesus)

¶ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked Him,

¶ “**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**”

P He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 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.” 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

C “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.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23 (ESV)

(Thanksgiving and prayer through our risen and ascended Savior)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might ²⁰that He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44–53 (ESV)

(Jesus fulfills all Scripture.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then 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.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them,

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.” ⁵⁰Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. ⁵¹While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

(The Paschal Candle is extinguished.)

⁵²And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the 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 All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.

Since Christ returned to claim his throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall 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.

Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully, Adorning Your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

SERMON

“RIGHTFUL PLACE”

Ephesians 1:15–23
Pr. Jim Sprengle

SONG OF PRAISE

“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.

APOSTLES' CREED (Second Article) 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

"He Is Exalted"

Arr. Stan Pethel

Ascension Choir

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name.

He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

*O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise.
The glories of my God and King, And the triumphs of His grace.*

*My gracious Master and My God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad All the honors of Your name.*

*He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name.
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.*

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.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into our world with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for His life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection. Most especially today we thank You for seating Him at Your right hand in His ascension. We thank You, for we know that Christ is ascended.

C **He rules and reigns in glory.**

P Lord, at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples out to the ends of the earth with a mission to be witnesses of His resurrection. Strengthen us as we continue their faithful witness. Embolden all missionaries and evangelists by constantly opening a door for Your Word to be spoken. We ask this in faith, for we know that Christ is ascended.

C **He rules and reigns in glory.**

P Lord, thank You for sending the promised Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our ways. Conform our lives to the Word of God and transform us by the renewing of our minds. We ask this with boldness, for we know that Christ is ascended.

C **He rules and reigns in glory.**

P Lord, we pray for those who are sick and recovering, those who are hospitalized and homebound, especially...strengthen them, and give them patience in their afflictions. We ask this in love, for we know that Christ is ascended.

C **He rules and reigns in glory.**

P Finally, Lord, for these and all other things which we bring to You in prayer, we ask this, knowing that Christ is ascended.

C **He is returning soon! Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

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!

“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!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the 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”*