



The Ascension Of Our Lord

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"

May 21, 2020

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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 8:30am service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Full Circle”

AS WE GATHER

Ascension shouldn't be overlooked. Ascension is the time when Jesus concludes His earthly ministry and promises the Holy Spirit's imminent arrival. Jesus sends His disciples to the ends of the earth as witnesses of His resurrection. He promises that He will always be with us even to the end of the age. As Jesus takes His place “far above” (Eph. 1:21) all earthly things, He rules in power and glory. Today we remember Jesus' mission from heaven to earth for our salvation, and His return to heaven to reign in glory.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name”

All hail the pow'r 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.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

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

P Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.

Silence for meditation.

P Heavenly Father,
C we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ's saving work and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen. We are forgiven and restored.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!
C Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, Your Son sent us to the ends of the earth with the Gospel and promised always to be with us. Embolden us to spread the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and return; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11 (ESV)

(Jesus ascends into heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³To them He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
⁶So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23 (ESV)

(Christ is risen and ascended. All things are under His feet.)

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 is carried up into the heavens.)

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

“NOT THE END”

Luke 24:44–53
Pr. Jim Sprengle

HYMN 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.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

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.

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.

Dear 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

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.**

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

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. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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