



The Ascension of Our Lord

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Thursday, May 21, 2020 ✝ Lutheran Center Chapel

WORDS OF WELCOME

ENTRANCE

The assembly stands. As an entrance psalm is chanted, the leaders enter and reverence the altar.

Galileans, why do you gaze in astonishment at the sky? Alleluia! Just as you have seen him ascend into heaven, so in the same way shall he return: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Acts 1:11)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or remains standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

ELW 393: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

- 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 followers see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 To whom 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 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!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

The canticle of praise may be sung or said by all. The music can be found in ELW, pp. 121-122.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister prays the collect appointed for the day.

Let us pray: Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord.

The people respond: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 47

The psalm of the day may be chanted or read responsively.

¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

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

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. R

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord.

The people respond: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A gospel acclamation is sung by the assembly or a choir. The music is found in ELW, p. 124.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

EXTINGUISHING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

After the gospel lesson the paschal candle is extinguished, symbolizing Jesus' physical ascension.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

NUN FREUT EUCH

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | On Christ's Ascension I now build
in hope of mine ascension;
this hope alone has ever stilled
all doubt and apprehension:
For where the Head is, there full well
I know his members are to dwell;
when Christ shall come and call them. | For where my treasure went before,
there all my thoughts shall ever soar
to still their deepest yearning. | |
| 2 | Since he returned to claim his throne,
great gifts for us obtaining,
my heart shall rest in Christ alone,
no other rest remaining. | 3 | Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
recalling your ascension,
that I may ever walk with thee
adorned by thy redemption.
And then, when all my days shall cease,
let me depart in joy and peace
in answer to my pleading. |

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604-1640, tr. William M. Czamanske, *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1938, alt.

Music: *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

CREED

The Nicene Creed may be spoken by all.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The presider opens the prayers.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community, and especially for the bishops, pastors, and deacons of our church. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression and violence rule no more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day, especially those close to us who are sick with COVID-19. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle God, you guide us as we seek wisdom. We pray for teachers, theologians, day care workers, and all those charged with teaching the young and old. Give them endurance and persistence in their valuable work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we call on you in this time of contagion. Assure us with your presence; give us courage and strength to take all measures necessary to limit the spread of disease; and be with the sick. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Infinite God, the inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed, especially those who have succumbed to COVID-19, and on this day, Helena, mother of Constantine. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The presider gathers the prayers of the faithful and commends them to God.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

As the table is set, an offertory song may be sung by the assembly or a choir.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; | a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands, | shout to God with cries of gladness,

For the Lord, the Most High, the awesome, | is the great king over all the earth.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; | the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

Sing praise to God, sing praise; | sing praise to our king, sing praise. (Ps. 47:2-3, 6-7)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.

Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,
intercedes for us as our great high priest.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Music for the "Holy, Holy, Holy" can be found in ELW, p. 130.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

A time is kept for meditating on God's promise of grace, given to us as Jesus was given, as a free gift of love. We also contemplate Christ's promise to be present with us in our faith and in the sacraments of the church: the water of baptism, the promise of forgiveness, and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We pray for the day we may feast together again, face to face, at the table of the Lamb.

ELW 488: Soul, Adorn Yourself

SCHMÜCKE DICH, O LIEBE SEELE

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| <p>1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.</p> <p>2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."</p> | <p>3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.</p> <p>4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.</p> |
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Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

The meditation ends with the prayer after communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened our hearts to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

ELW 441: Oh, Happy Day

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

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|---|--|
| 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand
amid the heav'nly throng;
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land
the new celestial song,
the new celestial song. | 3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood
of joy and love and peace
will roll down over us with good
and blessedness and grace,
and blessedness and grace. |
| 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come
and show himself as Lord,
and thousands meet in their new home
which Jesus has prepared,
which Jesus has prepared. | 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;
your love has made us free
to stand among the saints and sing
the glory that we see,
the glory that we see. |

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite

Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The bishop offers his episcopal blessing.

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, ✙ Father, ✙ Son, and ✙ Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Bishop Dr. R. Guy Erwin, *presiding minister*

Mr. Robert Flynn, *assisting minister & lector*

Dr. Adan Alejandro Fernandez, *organist (off camera)*

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