



*The Ascension
of Our Lord*

May 16, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

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All are welcome!

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Introduction

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Welcome to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song

Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise
Great is the Lord, Now lift up your voice, Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord!

CCLI Song # 1149

Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith

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P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

All Amen

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

All And also with you.

Kyrie and Hymn of Praise

Presider:

♪ ♪ In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord... ♪ ♪

All: Lord have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Presider: For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord... (*to All*)

Presider: For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord... *(to All)*

Presider: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All: **Amen.**

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your
presence intercedes for us.

All **Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring
everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.**

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Acts, the 1st chapter

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

Acts 1:1-11

L Word of God, word of hope.

All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 47

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm.

Leader will read the light print while you respond with the bold.

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 under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

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.**

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

⁸**God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned 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 highly exalted.

Psalm 47

A Reading from Ephesians, the 1st chapter

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, 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 age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23

L Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

♪ ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! ♪ ♪

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[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.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ 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,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he

blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24:44-53

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
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Nicene Creed

P Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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.**

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

Prayers of Intercession

L Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

♪ ♪ O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you;
O Lord, hear our prayer. ♪ ♪

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Lord, in your mercy, ***All:* You hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

You may be Seated

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

♪ ♪ As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you. ♪ ♪

Offertory Prayer

P God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

All Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

**Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

Remember Me

Verse 1

**On the night You were betrayed You took the bread.
After giving thanks You broke it and said,
“This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.
This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.”**

Verse 2

**On the night You were betrayed You held the cup.
After giving thanks You lifted it up
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.**

Verse 3 (All)

So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave Your body You shed Your blood.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave Your body You shed Your blood.

CCLI Song # 451177 Gerrit Gustafson | Martin Nystrom
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The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

All 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.

The Invitation

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

All Amen.

Sharing the Meal

♪ ♪ Lamb of God, You broke the bonds of sin and of death:
Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace. ♪ ♪

Post Communion Blessing and Praise

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

(Pastor sings each line, the congregation repeats.)

♪ ♪ May the Lord bless you and keep you. ♪ ♪
May the Lord make His face to shine on you.
And be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May He keep you ✝ in perfect peace.

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
May 23
Day of Pentecost

First Reading:	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm:	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading:	Romans 8:22-27
Gospel:	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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