



May 29, 2022

The Ascension of Our Lord



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Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 60 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

Call to Worship

Please stand as you are able

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

P In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

P You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,

our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,

now and forever.

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song

Exalted

Verse

Exalted He is exalted, On high He is exalted

For great is the Lord, Let all the nations say

Exalted He is exalted

Chorus 1

Blessing and honor glory and power

Unto the Lord be praise

Sing with the chorus resounding before us

Holy is His name His name (His name)

CCLI Song # 5203282

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Greeting

[You may be Seated](#)

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.

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

**All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

P For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

P For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All Amen.

Now the Feast and Celebration

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

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Prayer for This 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.

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. 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 Life!

All Thanks be to God!

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.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. 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 Hope!

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able

♪ ♪ 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.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and 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

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.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 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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The Apostles' Creed

- P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

Prayers of Intercession

L Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

♪ ♪ Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: ♪ ♪
peace to all people, hope for each soul.

God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy,

All: You hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory

♪ ♪ 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 Risen One,
as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore,
meet us now in this meal.

**All Nourish us to follow you,
using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary,
and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

Holy Communion

[Please stand as you are able](#)

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.

And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*♪ ♪ Holy, holy, holy are you, ♪ ♪
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

P You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God;
everything is filled with your glory.

We give you thanks for your promise and presence
which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation.

Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and
deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal 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.

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.

P ♪ ♪ Christ has died. Christ is risen. ♪ ♪
Christ will come, come again.

All ♪ ♪ **Christ has died. Christ is risen.** ♪ ♪
Christ will come, come again.

P Remembering his command to love one another,
his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension,
we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

P ♪ ♪ Amen, Come Lord Jesus. ♪ ♪
Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

All ♪ ♪ **Amen, Come Lord Jesus.** ♪ ♪
Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

P ♪ ♪ Amen, Come Holy Spirit. ♪ ♪
 Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

All ♪ ♪ Amen, Come Holy Spirit. ♪ ♪
 Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

P This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

 ♪ ♪ Through Christ, with, Christ, in Christ, ♪ ♪
 In the unity of the Spirit
 All glory and honor is yours, O God,
 Now and forever, Amen.

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 dwells with us here.
 All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

[You may be Seated](#)

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant



Communion Songs

I Will Offer Up My Life

Verse 1

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to You
In surrender I must give my ev'ry part
Lord receive the sacrifice of a broken heart

Chorus

Jesus what can I give, What can I bring
To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King
Savior what can be said, What can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have done
Oh my words could not tell, Not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart

Verse 2

You deserve my every breath for You've paid the great cost
Giving up Your life to death even death on a cross
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin
Opened up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in

Blessing, Honor and Glory

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for his is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God! (repeat)

Ending

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worth is the Lamb of God.

CCLI Song # 1001179

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Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

[Please stand as you are able](#)

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

All Amen

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
- 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Bridge

Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

- 3 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Text: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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*Please be seated for
Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements*

Benediction and Sending Song

Please stand as you are able

(Cantors sing 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!

With the joy of new life in Christ Jesus,

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.” *Ephesians 4:23*

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
June 5th
Pentecost

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17
Gospel: John 14:8-17 [25-27]

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