

May 24, 2020
The Ascension of Our Lord



Ascension OF THE LORD

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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AS WE GATHER

Ascension shouldn't be overlooked. Ascension is a time of happy endings as 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. We remember today Jesus' earthly ministry and His mission for us, and we bask in the promise of His presence.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

People: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Today is a day of celebration, grief, and anticipation.

People: We celebrate our Lord's triumph and reign.

Pastor: We grieve that He is not physically present with us.

People: We anticipate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Pastor: And we celebrate that His promise to always be with us remains and will never fade away.

OPENING HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

(v 1, 2, 6)

[The Venerable Bede. Public domain]

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!

Give us your joy on earth, O Lord,
In heav'n to be our great reward,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Where, throned with you forever, we
Shall praise your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: 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 find joy in Your perfect will. Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. We are forgiven and restored.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

People: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

EPISTLE: *Ephesians 1:15–23*

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 24:44–53*

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY SONG ***“Open the Eyes of My Heart”***

[Paul Baloché / © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music / ASCAP; CCLI# 254312]

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you. I want to see you.
(Repeat)

To see you high and lifted up.
Shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your pow'r and love as we sing
Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you.

SERMON: "Who Do You Look Up To?" *Acts 1:6-11*

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

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: 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. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special petitions). Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

A MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Pastor: As our nation pauses today to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance.

Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families.

Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country.

If it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry.

Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all - military and civilian - to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace.

In this peace and hope for eternity, we pray. - *Author Unknown*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“God Bless Our Native Land”

[John Dwight / Charles Brooks. Public Domain]

God bless our native land;
Firm may it ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies,
On whom we wait,
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!



Serving Us Today

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singers ... Ellen Makey, Ken Mann