

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
THURSDAY, May 9, 2024 6:30 PM

REV. MATTHEW CLARK
Liturgist
Ascension Lutheran Church

REV. ANDREW DINGER
Lector
Timothy Lutheran Church

REV. MATTHEW KOBS
Crucifer
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REV. DR. SAM NAFZGER
Preacher

JINAH KNAPP
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Director of Music
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Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Word of Life Lutheran School

LOVED BY CHRIST
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship
8:30 am Sunday Worship
9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class
11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 9, 2024

6:30 PM

AS WE GATHER

The most forgotten Festival of the Church Year often is Ascension. Coming forty days after Easter, Ascension recalls not merely how our Lord went off with His disciples and disappeared into the clouds but also the promise that remains with them. He went up with a shout—with the glory that He earned and so that He might be present with us always to bestow the glory of His salvation in the means of grace. Our Lord has not abandoned His people but has gone to prepare the way for them that they may be where He is. Furthermore, He has promised His Spirit so that we will know the way.

PRELUDE: O LOVE, HOW DEEP Hurlbutt

Ascension Bell Choir

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

(Please Stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR

LSB 661

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 47:5; Matthew 28:19-20; John 14:18*

P God has gone up with a shout,

C **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

P Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

P And behold, I am with you always,

C **to the end of the age.**

P I will not leave you as orphans;

C **I will come to you.**

INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b;*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins, that we receive forgiveness and are prepared to know and live the true joy of this Ascension Day.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** In the joy of this day, and upon this, your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, gloriously took His throne, ascending to Your right hand, grant that we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

† **WORD** †

FIRST READING *The Ascension of Our Lord Acts 1:1-11*
As verse 9 is read, the Christ candle is extinguished

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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O JESUS, SAVIOR, STAY WITH US Schalk/Rogner

Ascension & Timothy Choirs

PSALM *Psalm 47:1-9*



¹Clap your hands, all | peoples!*
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!
²For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.
³He subdued peoples | under us,*
and nations un- | der our feet.
⁴He chose our heritage | for us,*
the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.
⁵God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
⁶Sing praises to God, sing | praises!*
Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!
⁷For God is the King of | all the earth;*
sing praises | with a psalm!
⁸God reigns over the | nations;*
God sits on his | holy throne.
⁹The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of | Abraham.*
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly ex- | alted!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:15–23*

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Ascension Bell Choir Accompaniment



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:44-53*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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. 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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY: UP THROUGH ENDLESS RANKS OF ANGELS

LSB 491

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sam Nafzger

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Risen, ascended, and glorified Lord, hear the prayers of Your people. Sustain Your church, O Lord, that she may be faithful in all that You have given her to do and be kept in unity of doctrine and life through the days of trial until at last the church in heaven and the church on earth are one in Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Order all things on earth by Your Word that those entrusted with the leadership of the nations may fulfill Your purpose in the pursuit of peace, justice, and godliness on behalf of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Supply to the sick and those who suffer the grace to sustain them in the day of their trouble and give comfort to the dying and those who mourn, [*especially. . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Having in remembrance all those who have loved Your appearing and who now rest in Your mercy, we pray for that day when we shall join with them in the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom without end.
- C** **Glory, honor, blessing, and praise to You, O risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

Unless otherwise indicated on your offering envelope, today's offering will benefit Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA). CFNA is a ministry in our circuit that cares for immigrants and refugees in the St. Louis area. Please place your offerings and gifts in the wooden box in the narthex.

OFFERTORY:



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

(Please Stand)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them
2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament
3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

AGNUS DEI

Ascension Bell Choir Accompaniment

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Please Be Seated)

✠ **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** ✠

IN CHRIST ALONE

Soloist: Claire Sample (parts in italics)
Congregation sings bold parts

*In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

**In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious day
 Up from the grave He rose again!
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 For I am His and He is mine—
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus com-mands my destiny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand;
 Till He returns or calls me home,
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

LSB 837

Refrains – All, v. 1-All, v. 2-Choir, v. 3-Men, v. 4-Choir, v. 5-All, v. 6-Women

SEE, THE LORD ASCENDS IN TRIUMPH

LSB 494

(Please Stand)

DISMISSAL

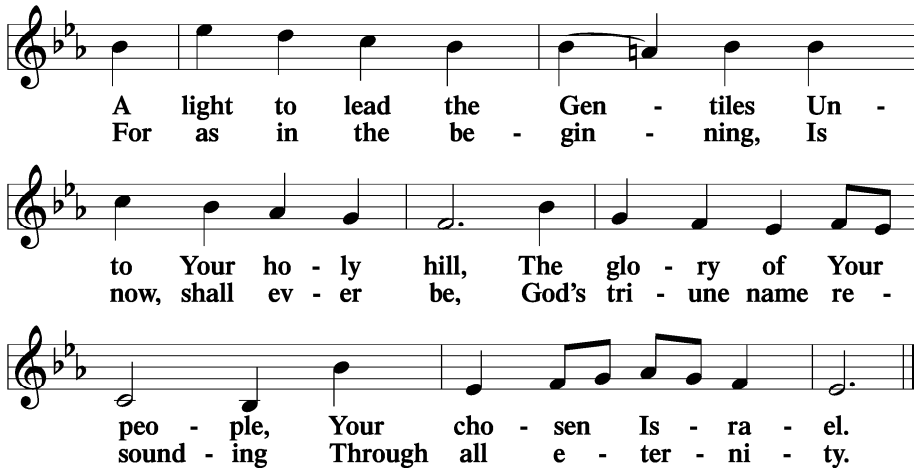
P With the power He has given through His Spirit, as His loved and forgiven people and as His witnesses here, nearby, and to the ends of the earth, go in peace as you serve our risen and ascended Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

NUNC DIMITTIS

Ascension Bell Choir Accompaniment

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

BENEDICTION: THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU Lutkin *Ascension & Timothy Choirs*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING *LSB 493*

POSTLUDE *Organ*

Worshippers are invited to join in a time of joyful fellowship including Ted Drewes frozen custard on the outdoor patio adjacent to the Word of Life playground.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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