

# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 10, 2018

7:00



## AS WE GATHER

Christ is ascended! He is ascended indeed! This joyful salutation to celebrate Jesus' ascension may sound strange, but Ascension Day is worth celebrating! Every time we say the words of the Apostles' Creed, we confess that Jesus "ascended into heaven." Do we understand, however, the importance of this phrase? Do we appreciate the significance of Jesus going up into heaven that Thursday forty days after His resurrection? Don't let Ascension Day be merely a forgotten festival. Celebrate your Lord's ascension! Celebrate because at His ascension, Jesus is fulfilling part of His work of salvation for you as He goes to prepare a place for you!

**PRELUDE** "Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

*Bell Choir*

**RINGING OF THE BELLS** - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



**WELCOME**

*(Please Stand)*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels" *LSB 491*

**Up through endless ranks of angels, Cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heav'nly throne ascending, Having vanquished all their fears,  
Christ looks down upon His faithful, Leaving them in happy tears.**

**Death destroying, life restoring, Proven equal to our need,  
Now for us before the Father As our brother intercede;  
Flesh that for our world was wounded, Living, for the wounded plead!**

**To our lives of wanton wand=ring Send Your Spirit, promised guide;  
Through our lives of fear and failure With Your pow'r and love abide;  
Welcome us, as You were welcomed, To an endless Eastertide.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to see the Father's face!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!**

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 47:1*

Pastor: Clap your hands, all peoples!

People: **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Christ is ascended!

People: **He is ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

All: **Amen and Amen.**



### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 24:46–47*

Pastor: Our ascended Lord is with us always, yet we doubt His presence, love, and provision. Because we are by nature sinful, we often overlook Jesus' promise to be with us always. We do not live our lives ready for His coming, and we neglect to share the Good News of Christ so that others may be ready for His return in glory. In repentance, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: “And He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’ ” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

People: **as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him,**

Pastor: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

## ✠ WORD ✠

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Why Do You Peer into the Skies?”

*Ascension Choir & Timothy Choir*



**FIRST READING** *Acts 1:1–11* (The ascension of our Lord)

*[As verse 9 is read the Christ candle is extinguished]*

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. <sup>3</sup>He presented Himself to them alive after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And 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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them,

“It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But 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.”

<sup>9</sup>And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 47; antiphon: v. 5* (“God has gone up with a shout!”)

Pastor: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Men: *Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!***

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

**Men: *He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.***

**Women: *He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom He loves.***

**People: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

**Men: *Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!***

*Women: For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm!*

**Pastor:** God reigns over the nations;  
God sits on His holy throne.

**Men:** *The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.*

*Women: For the shields of the earth  
belong to God He is highly exalted!*

**People:** **God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**



**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 1:15–23* (Christ has dominion over all things.)

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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 one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*



**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 24:44–53* (Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.)

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

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>Then he 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.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And 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.” <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



### **NICENE CREED *LSB* 158**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Hail Thee Festival Day”

*LSB 489*

*Ascension Choir & Timothy Choir*

(Congregation sings Refrain)

**Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our risen Lord Rose in the heavens to reign.**



**SERMON** “A Weight of Glory”

*Rev. Michael Tanney*

*(Please Stand)*



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us lift the needs of God’s people before the throne of grace and intercede for all people in Jesus’ name. Gracious Father, Jesus ascended to Your right hand, where He lives and reigns as the good King for all people with You and the Holy Spirit. Thank You that He did not leave us helpless but promised the Holy Spirit to fill us with Your love and energize us as Your witnesses in this world. Lord, as we celebrate your Son’s ascension,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Gracious Father, You call pastors to serve among Your people, proclaiming repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name. Grant to all pastors Your Holy Spirit through Your Word that they may be filled with all boldness in proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and themselves as bondservants for Jesus’ sake. Lord, as we celebrate your Son’s ascension,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Gracious Father, under the reign of the good King called Jesus, You appoint all who serve in positions of public service in this and every nation. Grant that all civil servants may discharge the duties of their offices with humility and instill in them a desire to protect and defend those among us who have no voice. Lord, as we celebrate your Son’s ascension,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Father, You have created good this universe and all who inhabit it. Grant that all who suffer from the corrupting effects of human sin in Your good creation experience Your healing power both now and in the age to come, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, as we celebrate your Son's ascension,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

*(Special Petitions)*

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.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



**GATHERING OF OFFERINGS** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
*LSB 549 Bell Choir*

*(Please Stand)*



✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠

## **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]  
**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]  
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]  
**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: 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:

**SANCTUS**      *Holy, Holy, Holy Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

*LSB 161*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

*LSB 162*

Pastor:            Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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. *Matthew 6:9–13***

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor:            The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People:      Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 163*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** “Beautiful Savior”

*LSB 537*

**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.**

**Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming  
spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**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.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be thine!**

**“On Christ's Ascension I Now Build”**

*LSB 492*

**On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.**

**Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone, No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.**

**“See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”**

*LSB 494*

**See, the Lord ascends in triumph; Conqu'ring King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, To His heav'nly palace gate.  
Hark,! The choirs of angels voices Joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted To receive their hea'vnly King.**

**Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed His foes.**

**While he lifts His hands in blessing, He is parted from His friends;  
Whiles their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him, Preaching truth and doom to  
come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated To His everlasting home.**

**Now our heav'nly Aaron enters With His blood within the veil  
Joshua now is come to Canaan, And the kings before Him quail.  
Now He plants the tribes of Israel In their promised resting place;  
Now our great Elijah offers Double portion of His grace.**

**He has raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heav'nly places, There with Him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord's ascension We by faith behold our own.**

*(Please Stand)*

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings  
Flow" *LSB 805*

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**



**BENEDICTION** *Psalm 47:1*

**Pastor:** Clap your hands, all peoples!

**People:** Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**Pastor:** Christ is risen!

**People:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Pastor:** Christ is ascended!

**People:** He is ascended indeed! Alleluia!

**All:** Amen and Amen.

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.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493**

**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!**

**To them 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!**

**“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!**

**Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Then, throned with You forever, we Shall praise Your name eternally,  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!**

**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!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Organ*

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**LECTOR:** Rev. Bill Wilson

**PREACHER:** Rev. Michael Tanney

**CELEBRANT:** Rev. Matthew Clark

**LITURGIST:** Rev. Ron Rall

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Gabe Michael, organist; Abby Wuerffel, organist,  
Ascension Bell Choir, Ascension Choir, Timothy Choir