

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 30, 2019

7:00 pm



AS WE GATHER

In a mysterious way, the ascension of our Lord into heaven is both a going but also a coming. Our eyes see Him ascending through the clouds, meaning He no longer needs to be appearing and reappearing as He did for forty days after Easter. He is with us whether we can see Him or not. But the eyes of faith see Him demonstrating His power to continue coming to us by His Spirit working through the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments up to this very day and to the end of the ages. Therefore this final event of His earthly ministry is not something to be feared. Rather, it gives us great joy and confidence for our continued faith and hope.

PRELUDE

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 fell the Son’s embrace!**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

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

Pastor: God has gone up with a shout,

People: **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

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

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

Pastor: And behold, I am with you always,
People: to the end of the age.

Pastor: I will not leave you as orphans;
People: I will come to you.

INVOCATION

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



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins, that we receive forgiveness and are prepared to know and live the true joy of this day.

People: 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.

Pastor: In the joy of this day, and upon this, your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God and, in the stead and by the ascension command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “Why Do You Peer Into the Skies?” *Ascension and Timothy Choir*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens,

People: 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)



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

[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. ³He presented Himself to them 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.”

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.**

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**



EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:15–23* (Thanksgiving and prayer)

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 the 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” *LSB 477, v. 1*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**



HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:44–53* (You are witnesses.)

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

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

⁴⁴Then 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.” 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 for the 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.” ⁵⁰And he led them

out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



NICENE CREED

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*
Choirs sing verses, 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.**

*He who was nailed to the cross Is ruler and Lord of all people.
All things created on earth Sing to the glory of God: **Refrain***

*Daily the loveliness grows, Adorned with the glory of blossom;
Heaven her gateway unbars, Flinging her increase of light. **Refrain***

*God the almighty, the Lord, The ruler of earth and the heavens,
Guard us from harm without; Cleanse us from evil within: **Refrain***

*Jesus, the health of the world, Creator of all and redeemer,
Son of the Father supreme, Only-begotten of God: **Refrain***

*Spirit of life and of pow’r Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all, Life that in all may abide: **Refrain***

*Praise to the giver of good! O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days; Order our ways in Your peace: **Refrain***



SERMON

(Please Stand)



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. Lord God, on this day we give You thanks and praise for the completed work You sent Your Son to accomplish in the world, taking on our human flesh to take away the sins of the world. Now in that same flesh He ascends to You. We thank You that He still preaches, teaches, heals, and feeds us through His apostolic ministers in Your Holy Church. Keep us in that joyful faith all our days. Christ is Ascended.

People: **He is Ascended indeed!**

Pastor: O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Lead and guide all leaders into the ways of Your peace, providing justice and peace among all people. Christ is Ascended.

People: **He is Ascended indeed!**

Pastor: By Your Spirit grant that our Lord Jesus bring His Word and assurance of deliverance, health, and healing to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Deliver, O Lord, especially those who are most helpless and those to whom death draws near. Christ is Ascended.

People: **He is Ascended indeed!**

(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 “Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow”

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* *LSB 208*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

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

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God* *LSB 210*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

(Please Be Seated)

Refrain



The Son floats home to glo - ry. Je - sus is his name. The



Son floats home to glo - ry. He will come a - gain.

Stanzas



1 Son of God and Mar - y's Son,	Spir - it - plant - ed
2 Twelve years old, a lit - tle lad	In the Tem - ple
3 Dead - ly pain, he takes the cross.	Man - kind's gain is
4 "Emp - ty grave!" the wom - en cry.	"See his hands and



in the womb.	An - gels, shep - herds, shouts and cries,
with his Dad.	Ag - ed schol - ars' great sur - prise,
heav - en's loss.	Low he bows his head to die.
touch his side."	Now a bless - ing, now good - bye,



Sa - ges led by star - lit skies.	Refrain
In the Scrip - tures he is wise.	Refrain
Grave - yards trem - ble, spir - its fly.	Refrain
Now the Son as - cends on high.	Refrain

**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 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; 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

Pastor: Christ is risen!

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

Pastor: Christ is ascended!

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

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.**

CLOSING 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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PREACHER: Rev. Ron Rall

LITURGIST: Rev. Michael Tanney

CELEBRANT: Rev. Matthew Clark

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Gabe Maichel, organist/pianist; Ascension Choir;
Timothy Choir; Ascension Bell Choir; Noah Clark, trombone; Phil Perschbacher, euphonium;
Rev. Ted Wuerffel, trumpet