



Grace Lutheran Church

9th & Logan Street Wayne, Nebraska 68787

Phone: 402.375.1905 Office email: kwiser@gracewayne.com
www.gracewayne.com

The Ascension of our Lord (Observed)

May 16, 2021

Welcome: We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. For those worshipping in person please take time to register your attendance using the slips in the pew rack. These can be placed in the offering plates by the door as you exit.

Prayer Requests are always welcome. To have someone included in our prayers during worship, please call the pastor or church office or write down the request and give it to the pastor.

Lectionary Summary: After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, *“appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues *“to do and teach”* (Acts 1:1), preaching *“repentance for the forgiveness of sins”* (Luke 24:47), even *“to the end of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon *“the church, which is his body”* (Eph. 1:22–23). In this Holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself *“in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 1:20).

Order of Worship
Matins *LSB219*

Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Ringing of the Bell

♪ Opening Hymn: “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

LSB 491

- 1 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.**

- 2 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!**

- 3 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.**

Stand

- Δ4 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!**

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Opening Versicles (Matins)

LSB 219

- ♪P O Lord, open my lips.**
♪C And my mouth will declare Your praise.
♪P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
♪C make haste to help me, O Lord.
**♪C 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.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**
♪P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
♪C O come, let us worship Him.

♪Hymn of Praise: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB 493 sts. 1, 5–6,

1 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!

5 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!

Δ6 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!

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Sit

Readings From Holy Scripture

First Reading

Acts 1:1–11

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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Adult Choir Anthem: "They Shall Soar Like Eagles" (10:30)

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

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

C 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 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.

Sit

Children's Message

♪Sermon Hymn: "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

LSB 492

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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.

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Sermon "Joy Filled Farewells"

Pastor Erik

Stand

♪Te Deum Hymn: "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"

LSB 941

- 1 We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
"O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"

- 2 The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
“O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!”
- 3 You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ryone:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve—
You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.
- 4 You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God’s right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

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♫ Kyrie

LSB 227

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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.

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

♪ Closing Hymn: “Draw Us to Thee”

LSB 701

1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever And hasten on
Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness That we may be
Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we
May walk the road to heaven! Direct our way
Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.

4 **Draw us to Thee That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit And ever dwell
Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.**

5 **Draw us to Thee Unceasingly,
Into Thy kingdom take us; Let us fore'er
Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

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NEWS AND NOTES

WE REJOICE with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

BIRTHDAYS: Camryn Evans, Doris Meyer, Alan Pippitt, Ron Sebade, Diane Zach, Mike Anderson, Trexton Ocampo, Katie Saul, Marvin Bodlak, Cade Janke, Melvy Meyer, Chuck Potosnyak, Jalen Sharer, & Troy Stowater

ANNIVERSARIES:

LAST WEEK our offerings were \$7,802.

ONLINE WORSHIP: Livestream of our Sunday morning services is being offered each week. Check the church's website www.gracewayne.com or Facebook page for the link which should be available on Sunday morning. A recording of the service is still available to watch later in the day or week. May God bless your worship time.

LUTHERAN HOUR: "**Wisdom Knows When**" -- Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Does someone need to hear words of rebuke-or redemption? A message about harsh words, gentle answers, and the wisdom of God. Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am.

RECOGNITION BRUNCH: Today, May 16 between services at 9:15 a.m. we will be having a recognition brunch in honor of several people who have done much to enrich our congregation's life. First of all, this will be an opportunity to recognize **Derek Jareske** who has been serving as our Sunday School Director and in many other roles. Derek is completing his training as a Director of Christian Education through Concordia College of Irvine, California's online program. The final portion of DCE training involves a one-year internship. At the conclusion of that internship, he will be able to receive a call into the full-time ministry of the LCMS as a Director of Christian Education. Derek will soon be leaving us to begin his DCE internship. His internship will be in Hagerstown, Maryland and he will get started there in July. **Micah Schut** who has served as our vocal and handbell choir director. Micah has also been our Cup of Grace resident caretaker. Micah is graduating from Wayne State and has taken a music education position in Ogallala, Nebraska. He will be relocating there soon. **Pastor Erik** will also be recognized on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of his ordination into the office of the Holy Ministry. Plan to join us on May 16 at 9:15 as we enjoy some brunch together and thank God for the service of each of these servants of the church. And pray God's blessing upon their continued service here or elsewhere.

USE YOUR GIFTS: Beginning in June, some of the areas of service which were temporarily discontinued due to pandemic precautions we hope to resume. That means that we will be looking for those who would like to serve the Lord and our congregation as Greeters and Lay Readers. Greeters help to provide a friendly welcome and distribute bulletins to people entering our sanctuary. Lay Readers assist during the worship service by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the service. If you would like to help in either role, please indicate it on your attendance registration sheet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today's lesson, "The Praying King," tells the account of Hezekiah. When Hezekiah becomes king over Judah, he removes the altars and idols. Having conquered Israel, the king of Assyria attacks Judah, mocking Hezekiah and God. Reassured by the prophet Isaiah, Hezekiah appeals to God to uphold and protect His people. Isaiah responds by prophesying the defeat of Sennacherib's army. That night, the angel of the Lord strikes down 185,000 of the Assyrians. For those who cannot attend in person, visit <http://bit.ly/onlinesundayschool> to access an online video overview for Lesson 8 and additional family materials.

VISIONARY PARENTING BIBLE CLASS WITH PASTOR ERIK: Parents are you looking at getting into God's word with your children. Are you not sure how to even begin doing something like that? Wanting to strengthen habits that you are already doing. Well then, we hope you will join Pastor Erik during the Sunday School Hour from 9:15 to 10:15AM! We will cover great topics like God's grand vision for the home, a God-filled normal life, Biblical fatherhood and motherhood, family worship, multi-generational faithfulness, a safe home, and disciplines that disciple. What you will hear and learn is that God has brought your family together for a grand purpose! Our study called *Visionary Parenting* will help you discover and lean into this awesome opportunity. Through studying God's Word in this Visionary Parenting series, you will be inspired to catch a fresh vision of God's purpose for your family. While also being inspired to build faith and character in the hearts of your kids.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: We have reached chapter 20 of the book of Revelation. The chapter includes mention of a thousand-year reign of Christ, Satan's binding and then release for a little season. Join us Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for a study of this much discussed and often misunderstood chapter of the Bible.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING FUNDRAISER: The Jr. High and High School Youth Group want to thank you for taking the time to support, pray for, and encourage us throughout this past year as you always have. All of you have meant so much to us, during a time of great uncertainty in a lot of ways. Two things have been certain though and that is first God's love and second your commitment. The Youth Group is also working on a fundraiser to help make it to the National Youth Gathering that takes place July 2022. On the wall leading into the Fellowship Hall, you will find a lot of envelopes. If you feel led to support this effort, please take an envelope and you the dollar amount on each one is merely a suggestion. You can donate more, or less depending upon your interest. All proceeds will go towards our trip to the Gathering, and if you write a check, please make it out to LYF Grace Lutheran. Thank you again for all your support! We could not do anything without your help!

JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL BONFIRE: May 22nd at 6:30pm plan to meet the Jr. High and High School students out at Jeff and Colleen Simpsons house for a fun night of air hockey, pool, and a bonfire! Bring your lawn chair, enjoy some burgers, sausage, and delicious grilled food! And come for a quick devotion from Pastor Erik! See you all on the 22nd!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 13TH THRU 17TH 5:15PM TO 8PM

Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God? Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island VBS, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God and how His love applies to their lives. Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island! Our Daily Schedule will include: Dinner starting at 5:15PM followed by a large group opening 5:50PM, small group rotations through lessons, games, and crafts, and large group closing at 8:00PM. Thursday June 17th will be a special evening with a family friendly island themed movie being shown immediately after our large group closing at 8pm. Concessions will be sold including popcorn, candy, and drinks. All proceeds from the movie go towards helping the Youth Group make it to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas during the summer of 2022! Be sure to encourage your friends to register, and we will see you soon for a swash buckling, rip roaring, high sea sailing tale of an Island Adventure!!!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SERVICE PROJECT: For the month of May, regarding to our service project, the Sunday School will be requesting age appropriate and non-offensive stickers. As always, if you are interested in helping with this activity, the Sunday School will be collecting any donations for this project in the marked bin by the Sunday School office, in the basement. Thank you for your continued generosity!

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSORS: are needed for the month of June. Please contact the church office (402-375-1905) to reserve a date. The cost of \$20.

NO SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP on May 29th due to a wedding. Saturday Worship will resume on June 5th.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION: The LYF is collecting aluminum cans as a fundraiser for the youth group. Please place the cans you donate in the small shed on the west side of the alley behind the preschool. Please put your cans in **tied plastic garbage bags (No paper bags)** and **NO BOTTLES! ALUMINUM CANS ONLY, NO OTHER TYPE OF ALUMINUM.** The youth appreciate your effort in helping to raise money and also helping to clean up the environment!

KEEP THE BEST CHOICE labels coming. When cutting them out, please include the words Best Choice found around that label. They may be above or alongside the code.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTORS: Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.833.1071 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Erik Christensen, Associate Pastor

Pastor's phone: 979.204.0752 Email: pastorerik@gracewayne.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

ELDER ON DUTY: Lonnie Matthes (8:00) Troy Stowater (10:30)

ACOLYTES: Taven Ocampo (8:00) Graycen Trautman (10:30)

FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL: Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Sara Ruwe – 402.369.2661

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR: Dick & Pam Nolte for their many blessings.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Recognition Brunch
	10:30 am.	Worship
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am.	Bible Study
SATURDAY	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
	6:30 pm.	Youth Night
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am.	Worship/Communion
	9:15 am.	Bible Study
	9:15 am.	Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Worship/Communion