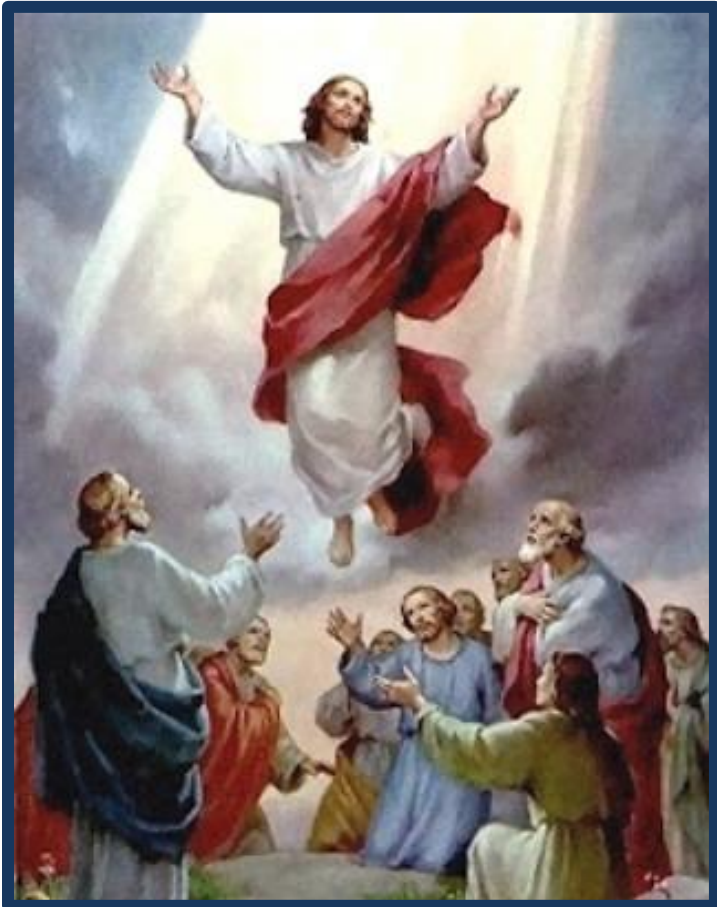


HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Ascension of Our Lord

Divine Service One

May 30, 2019



Holy Communion: *Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?*



Who: We welcome and invite anyone who is a communicant member of this congregation, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, or anyone who has spoken with our Pastor prior to worship, to commune with us. If you have not spoken to our Pastor prior to the service, we ask that you would refrain from communing until you have done so.

If you or your children would like to receive a blessing during communion, please come forward with everyone else, kneel, and bow with your hands at your side and you will be blessed by Pastor.

What: We believe the words that Jesus said when He instituted this Holy Sacrament at the Last Supper. In these words He states that He gives us His body and His blood to eat and to drink, with the bread and the wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and in remembrance of Him.

When: We do not have Holy Communion every Sunday, but if you wish to receive it, please speak with our Pastor to find out when the next communion day is or to set up a time with him to receive it.

Where: Communion is taken at the chancel rail in the front of the church. However, our Pastor and the Elder on Duty are happy to go to persons with special needs. Please let us know in advance if you need any assistance going to the rail or if you would like to have communion at your seat.

Why: Jesus commanded it of His followers so that they would remember what He had done for them, receive the forgiveness of their sins, and be strengthened in their faith.

How: We proceed in 4 stages.

1. After Pastor speaks the words of institution (the words that Jesus Christ said) over the elements, he will invite those wishing to partake of the wine using the "common cup" to come forward.
2. If you wish to receive the common cup, you may come forward to the chancel rail through any aisle at that time, but please exit using the center aisle following the final blessing by the Pastor.
3. Those wishing to partake of the wine using individual cups are then welcomed up the side aisles in groups by the ushers. Following the final blessing, depart down the center aisle placing your cup on one of the receiving trays on the ends of the front rows of chairs.
4. Pastor and the Elder on Duty will then go to persons with special needs, such as those in wheelchairs or who have difficulty walking, and commune them.

Holy Communion is a special time for us. It is a time for reflection, prayer, thanksgiving, and for receiving God's forgiveness as brothers and sisters united by a common faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you for respecting our communion practice.



The Ascension of Our Lord

May 30, 2019

7 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300

Kristen Foss, Director, Early Learning Center.....303-683-1311

Fax..... 303-470-0165

***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***

Prayer for the Ascension of Our Lord

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You that You raised Your Son from the dead, seated Him at Your right hand, and placed all things under His feet that He might rule in majesty. You have crowned Him with glory as our King of kings and Lord of lords. Fulfill for us His promise that He would be with us always, even to the end of the world. Fill us with His Spirit to carry out His commission to make disciples of all nations as You have made us His disciples. Even as You have drawn Him to Yourself, so draw us to Him. As He returned to You to prepare a place for us, so take us to Yourself at His coming again. We come to You boldly in prayer, as He invited us to do when He ascended on high. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Ps. 47:5



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

**The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*
until I make your enemies your | footstool."**

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,*
"You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek."

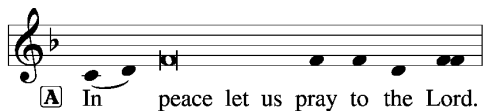
The Lord is at your | right hand;*
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

**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.**

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

Kyrie

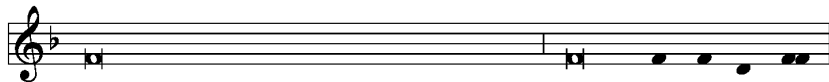
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



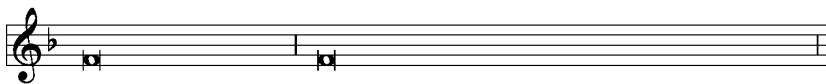
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



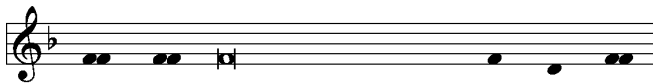
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.
 For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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.



First Reading: Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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." 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands,*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15–23

For this reason, because I [Paul] have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

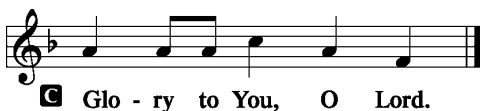
Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. 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 Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Then [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." Then he

opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and 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. You are witnesses of these things. 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."

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

Sermon

**"Christ Has Ascended and He Rules All,
but He Is Also Still with Us"**

by Raymond Cox

Stand

Nicene Creed

**C 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.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

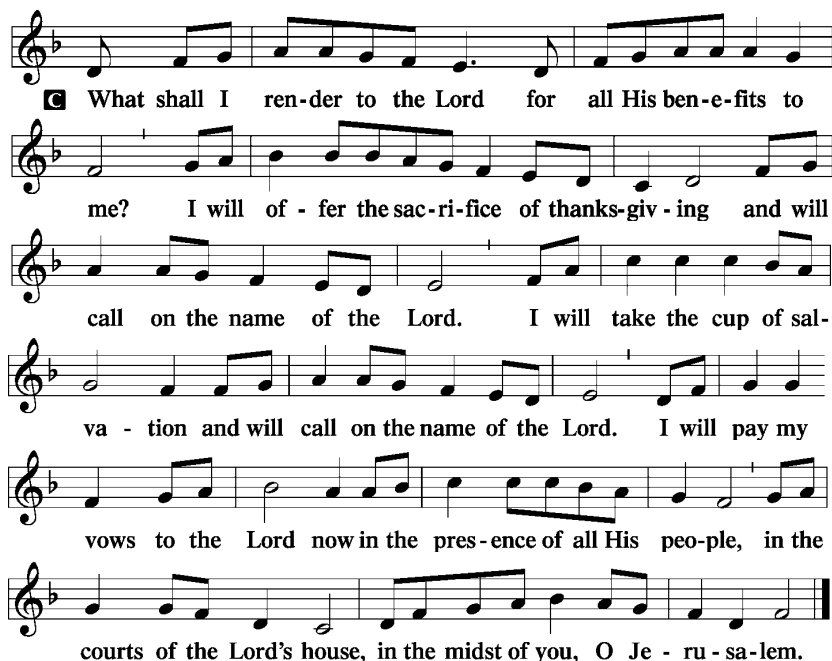
Offering

*(Please add your name to the red fellowship
book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)*

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.



Service of the Sacrament



*Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the
inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.*

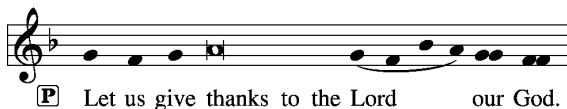


Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



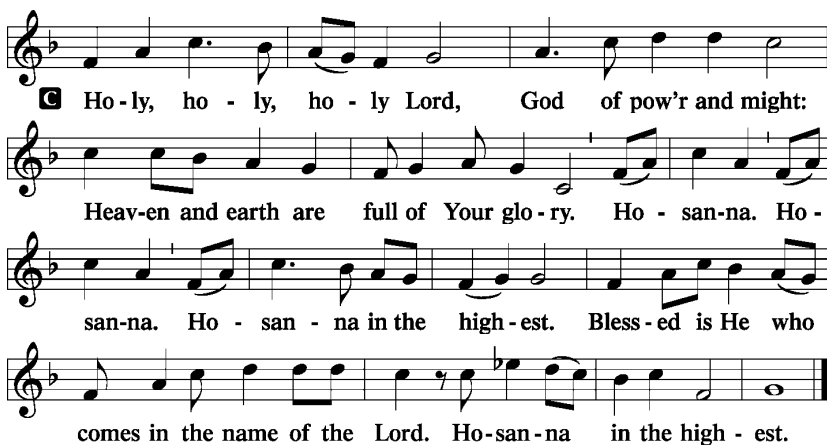
The Lord be with you.
And al - so with you.



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:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

**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.**

The Words of Our Lord

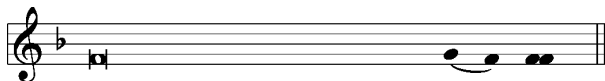
*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit



Distribution

537 Beautiful Savior

701 Draw Us to Thee

492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P 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.

C A - men.

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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The Importance of the Ascension of Jesus



From a scriptural point of view, Ascension Day is no less important than Christmas Day. Why should the return of Christ to glory be of less importance to us than His coming to us from glory?

“The third day [Jesus] rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty” (the Apostles’ Creed).

The benefits of the ascension of Jesus are among the most precious gifts of our Savior to His Church. Indeed, if He had not returned to His Father after His resurrection, we would have none of these blessings.

“Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us” (Romans 8:34). The perfect merits of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross must be presented to the Father so that we can and should lay claim to what Jesus has done for us. Since we can be declared righteous before God only through Christ, His ceaseless intercession remains necessary because we are by nature sinners and cannot approach God on our own merits.

One of the most beautiful of Jesus’ promises that He gave us was recorded by Matthew in his last chapter in verse 20, “And behold, I am with You always, to the end of the age.” Two benefits accrue from this promise. The first is given to us in John 14:26 where Jesus says, “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” Christ’s promise to send them the Helper is a comfort to His disciples (and to us) because the Holy Spirit, among other blessings, will guide us into a deeper understanding of God’s Word.

Mistakenly, we sometimes think that Jesus’ physical absence places us at a disadvantage. In fact, Jesus is present with us through the witness of the Spirit, who works among us through God’s Word and the Sacraments.

The second result of Jesus being with us as He promised in Matthew 28:20 is that when He ascended into heaven and disappeared from the sight of His disciples (Acts 1:9), He did not discard His human nature. Jesus still retains both His divine nature

and His human nature. Christ, as our ascended Lord, is still bodily with us: His power and blessings now come to us in a special and miraculous way as His Real Presence in the Holy Supper.

Jesus at the Passover Meal with His disciples was telling them what would happen in the next days. He then stated, “no one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6b). Our only access to God is through Jesus. He had entered “into heaven itself ... to appear in the presence of God on our behalf” (Hebrews 9:24). Christ did not enter heaven to sacrifice for us daily but to pray for us. Now we too can come before God in prayer, knowing that Jesus is there interceding for us.

In this same passage in John 14, Jesus tells His disciples that “I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3). Through His death, resurrection, and ascension, Christ went to prepare a place for us in heaven, where we will dwell with God forever. Because of Christ’s work, we know that we can one day enter the eternal presence of the Father.

The return of Christ into heaven was not, after all, a sad event. In Luke 24, when Jesus departed from His disciples and was carried into heaven, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. We too, can experience great joy as we ponder the events resulting from His ascension: Jesus is ever interceding for us with our Father; He sent the Holy Comforter “to teach us all things;” He is present in His Supper; we can approach our Father in prayer; and we can look forward to being in our “Father’s house,” where there “are many rooms.”

“Let not your hearts be troubled.”

John 14:1a

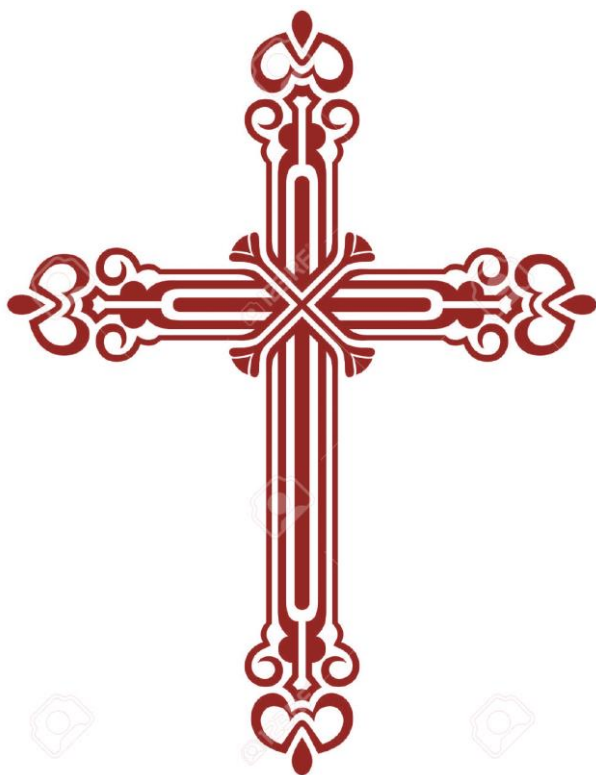


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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Soli Deo Gloria !

(To God alone be the glory.)



In the sacrament of the Holy Supper, Jesus is bodily present in a way that He is nowhere else, hence it is His sacramental presence. In His sacramental presence our Lord Jesus, who is present everywhere as our Creator, now stoops to touch us in His wondrous Meal.

Good News, Vol. 2, No. 3, Holy Communion, p. 11.

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