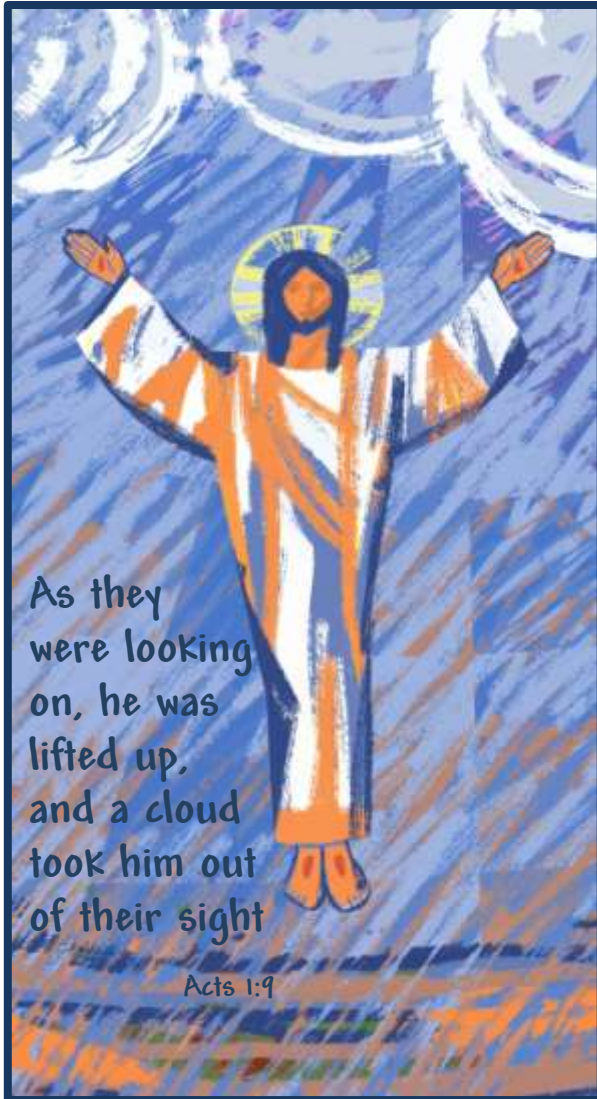


HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Divine Service Four

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 14, 2015





The Ascension of Our Lord

May 14, 2015

7:15 PM

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.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Divine Service Four

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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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

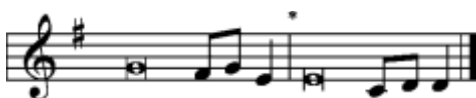
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 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



G Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis


Luke 2:14; John 1:29




C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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.

Sit

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."

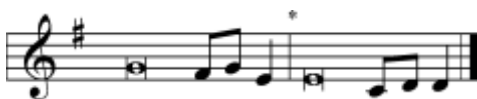
So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 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 [God] 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel: Luke 24:44–53

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

G **Glory 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.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**



Nicene Creed

G **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.**

Sit



491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

Sermon

“What We Need and Need Not Know”

Text: See the Old Testament Reading

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
G **hear our prayer.**

Sit

Offering

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



Service of the Sacrament

 <p>The Lord's Supper/ Holy Communion</p> <p>WHY? WHO? WHEN?</p>	<p>! PLEASE READ & UNDERSTAND</p> <p>We do not practice open communion. Please refer to the inside cover or speak with Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. – Thank You.</p>
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Stand

Preface

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

- P** The Lord be with you.
G **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
G **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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Having revealed Your glory in the face of Your only-begotten Son, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation, You have exalted Him to the highest majesty at Your right hand, that He might graciously fill all things.

Grant us faithfully to eat and drink this Holy Supper, trusting our reigning Savior Jesus, who, though unseen in His ascended glory, is here present to save by His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

**☐ 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

☐ 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

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
☐ Amen.



Agnus Dei

John 1:29

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.

Sit



Distribution

495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

537 Beautiful Savior

Stand



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.

Good News is published by the Concordia Mission Society.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

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

Post-Communion Collect

P 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 Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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 Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria !

(To God alone be the glory.)

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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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