



*Online Worship for the  
Ascension of Our Lord*

*May 24, 2020*

Prelude

"Let It Rise"

Holland Davis

Shout of Victory and Welcome

P: Alleluia! Christ is STILL risen and ascended! Amen!

**C: He is STILL risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

Gathering Prayer

**C: Lord Jesus, on this day we remember and celebrate Your return to glory and honor at the right hand of the Heavenly Father. Like Your first disciples, we now join in Your temple to praise You and bless You. In this hour we have set aside from the cares and concerns of our day, give us a foretaste of the peace and joy that will be fully ours when we ascend to be with You in heaven forever. In Your precious name we pray; Amen.**

Hymn

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB #493:1-4



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -  
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why  
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,  
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,  
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,  
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers  
al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they  
al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of  
see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -  
say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph  
see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit;

**C: Amen.**

### Opening Verses

*Drawn from Psalm 47*

P: Alleluia! Christ is STILL risen and ascended! Amen!

**C: Christ is STILL risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

P: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

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

P: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

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

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

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

P: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**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.**

### Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

<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 a 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord;

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Drawn from Ephesians 1*

P: My brothers and sisters, let's be honest: Even though Christ is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places, above all rule and authority and power and dominion, we have often resisted His reign in our lives. The eyes of our hearts have been dim; we have forgotten the hope of our calling; we have neglected our rich inheritance of faith, and ignored those with whom we share it; we have failed to call on God, and to rely on the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us. In short, we have lived as though Christ's reign were too far away to matter. Let's repent of this, and return to His gracious rule and reign, confess our sins to Him, and receive His forgiveness.

*We keep a time of silence for reflection on God's Word and for personal confession.*

P: Heavenly Father,

**C: We confess to You that we have thrown off Your rule and reign in our lives by sinning against You in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. But we would rather live in faith and love as the body of Christ, under His gracious and gentle rule as our head. So forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will; through Christ our Lord; Amen.**

P: Our Almighty God in His mercy did give His Son to die and rise for you – and now He is ascended, and all things have been put under His feet, including sin, death, and the power of the devil. On account of Christ's saving work and by His authority, I rejoice to forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

### The Peace

P: Alleluia! Christ is STILL risen and ascended! Amen!

**C: Christ is STILL risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you;

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the Lord's peace with those at home with you, or with a comment to everyone on the livestream.*

### Song of Praise

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB #493:5-6

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!**

6 **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!**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Heavenly Father, Your Son sent us to the ends of the earth with the Gospel and promised always to be with us. Embolden us to spread the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and return; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; Amen.**

### The Holy Gospel (*The Ascension, volume 1*)

Luke 24:44-53

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

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

L: <sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] said to [His disciples]:

P: "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."

L: <sup>45</sup>Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them,

P: "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."

L: <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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Song

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

*Refrain:*

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You, I want to see You.** *Repeat*

**To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, "holy, holy, holy."** *Refrain:*

**Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy;  
I want to see You.**

Reading from the Book of Acts (*The Ascension, volume 2*)

*Acts 1:1-11*

L: <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>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.

<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,

P: "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."

L: <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked Him,

**C: "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"**

L: <sup>7</sup>He said to them,

P: "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."

L: <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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Adam Wiegand

"Why Shouldn't We Stand, Looking Into Heaven?"

Hymn

"Praise Be to Christ"

LSB #538



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the  
2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -  
3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and  
a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our  
God - head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,  
world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,  
man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and  
Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born  
Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.  
from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.  
sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

Nicene Creed

P: Confident of the eternal life that is ours through the risen Christ, we confess our faith:

**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.**

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

*Please visit [spalutheran.org/give](http://spalutheran.org/give)*

Prayer of the Church

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

I: God, our Father in heaven, look on us in mercy, for we are Your needy children on earth. Bless us so that we may hold Your name as holy by devoting ourselves to Your Word and to loving our neighbors fervently. Keep us from injuring Your name in any way. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: May Your kingdom come to us. O Lord, and may it expand. Bring all blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ by faith so that the number of His saints may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

I: By Your Spirit, teach us to bow will to Yours and strengthen us to embrace Your good and gracious will for us. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need . . . In their lives and circumstances, O Lord, Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

I: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and rejoice in a good conscience before You. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

I: Finally, heavenly Father, save us from all evil of body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

Closing Prayer

P: O Lord, by Your grace we have come again to the beginning of a new week. Since You intercede on our behalf before the Father, into Your hands we place the tasks that we face, the problems that we are called to solve, the fears that we dread, and the hopes toward which we press, knowing that only what You bless will prosper. We commit each other and all those we love to Your love and protection, knowing that in You alone do we have peace in life and even in death.

**C: Amen.**



## Prayer Requests

*Please send prayer requests to [prayer@spalutheran.org](mailto:prayer@spalutheran.org)*

### **Prayer Requests Received the Week of May 17**

- Suzi Haley (Under testing for Guillain-Barre Syndrome; sister of Chris Underwood)
- Jerry Ianuzzo (Undergoing serious back surgery this week, long recovery expected; boyfriend of Holly Dreher)
- Mary Ims (Lung cancer)
- Ruth Ann Jones (Having a breast biopsy; niece of Claire Marcino)
- Rudi Lang (COVID-19 positive, but in stable condition; father of Marianne Wiegand)
- Geoff Stewart (Still recovering after construction accident)
- Renee Wagner (wife of coworker of Chris Underwood)
- Rachel Walter (Relief from pain, anticipating surgery in June)
- Linda Wheeler & her daughter (Uninhabitable storm-damaged home; friends of Terri Knowlton)
- The daughter-in-law of Gail Sundstrom (broken leg and metastatic cancer)
- Linda Henle (Storm-damaged home)

### **For Those Who Mourn**

- Fred Gary Jr., who passed away Sunday, May 17. We especially remember his parents, Fred & Nancy, friends of Terri Knowlton.
- George Moline, long-time member of St. Paul's; father of Kirk Moline.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

- From our homebound who appreciate the gift of the painted rocks from the Urbanski Family and the connection it is giving them to our church family.

### **For the Wider Church**

- For the Chinese ministry in New York City and True Light Lutheran Church. Help their congregants deal with health issues while grieving the passing of fellow parishioners.

- Vicar Kamba Fung, Chaplain to Flushing House, an elderly center and all those quarantined in nursing homes.

### **For Frontline Workers Helping with COVID-19**

- Chris (Saratoga Hospital)
- Ellen (Albany Medical Center)
- Erin (Saratoga County)
- Jenn (Saratoga Hospital)
- Kira (Saratoga Hospital)
- Mara (Saratoga Hospital)

### **Prayer Requests Received the Week of May 10**

- Marie Barth (Non-healing leg wound; also anticipating surgery for another issue)
- Seve Chacon (For good health and long life; uncle of Phil Chavez)
- Lorraine Chavez (Health and Finances)
- Ronald Dreher (Cancer; brother of Fred Dreher)
- Mary Ims (Lung cancer, beginning treatments)
- Ruth Ann Jones (anticipating biopsy; niece of Claire Marcino)
- Barbara Monzingo (Undergoing testing for cancer; friend of Harold Patchen)
- Derek Park (Slowly recovering from pinched nerve; friend of Terri Knowlton)
- Kerry Park (Recovering from tick born illness; friend of Terri Knowlton)
- Ann (Breast cancer; friend of Lynnette Stedry)
- Arianna
- Alisabeth
- Brandon
- Carol
- Cheryl
- Colleen
- Morgan
- Isla
- Sherry

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

- For the birth of Wesley Christopher Gulyas, newborn son of Amelia & Joseph Gulyas and grandson to Marcia Reynolds & Dave Allard.

### **For Those Who Mourn**

- James E. Gerber, who passed away on Sunday, May 10. James was the brother of Connie Minsch.

### **For the Wider Church**

- For Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Middle Island, as they and all of us wait to be able to worship in person; and for a growing sense of revival in their congregation and in the country.
- For the people of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Patchogue as they go through a time of pastoral transition, to continue living intentionally as the church in that place.

### **Copyright Acknowledgements**

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