

The Ascension of our Lord

May 13, 2021

6:30 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

As we celebrate our Lord's ascension, we might wonder why Jesus left His followers alone. That's at least what it might look like on the surface as we read today's Reading from Acts. But nothing could be further from the truth! Jesus doesn't abandon us at His ascension. Rather, He is with us even today by His Means of Grace. Jesus is truly present still today as we gather in His name for worship, become connected to Him through Baptism, and receive Him in the Lord's Supper. As He has promised, Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age!

PRELUDE

Variations on "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

OPENING HYMN

491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels (sung by soloist)

- 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.*
- 4 *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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(Please stand)

INVOCATION

(from Psalm 47)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Pastor: For God is the King of all the earth;

People: sing praises with a psalm!

Pastor: God reigns over the nations;

People: God sits on His holy throne.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

People: O Lord, who could stand?

Psalm 130:3

Pastor: Lord Jesus, when You were about to depart into heaven, You lifted Your hands in blessing and promised to be with us always. Even though Your Word confirms Your presence in our lives, we are a sinful people, in need of Your forgiveness. We confess that, at times, we have been indifferent and forgotten Your blessing. Instead, we have sought things of this earth. We have focused on our own loneliness, though You have promised to be with us always. You have promised to return, yet we have grown impatient and earthbound and fail to set our hearts on things above. We have not always been a people of anticipation, and need a return to joy.

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Psalm 130:4

Pastor: As the disciples returned from Christ's ascension filled with joy, so, you also are renewed in Christ's saving promise. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our 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. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (sung by soloist)

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!*

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!*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O King of glory, on this day You ascended in triumph far above all heavens. We ask Your Spirit's abiding presence here on earth, within our hearts. Empower us truly to be Your disciples in this life and to be Your companions at the heavenly feast for all eternity. This we ask for Your love's sake.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

(Jesus' ascension and the promise of the Spirit.)

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 47

Pastor: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

People: How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

Pastor: He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

People: He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

Pastor: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Pastor: For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

People: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Pastor: The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham,

People: for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

(Jesus seated at God's right hand.)

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

(Jesus opens His disciples' minds and ascends.)

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising 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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

(please stand)

HYMN

494 See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph (sung by all)

- 1** 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 angel voices
Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted
To receive their heav'nly King.
- 2** Who is this that comes in glory
With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies,
He has gained the 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.
- 5** 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.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Ascended Lord, You rule as King, seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling in power and might, in grace and mercy.

People: **You have not left us as orphans, but have sent Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to fill us with Your joyous presence.**

Pastor: By Your Spirit working in Your Word, grant that our eyes be turned from looking to the heavens to looking at the lost world to which we are called to be Your witnesses.

People: **Give us the courage to proclaim boldly Your saving Word of grace and mercy.**

Pastor: Ascended Lord, we await Your return, for as Your disciples saw You go, so will You return. Grant that we may await Your second coming with anticipation, and not with fearfulness or dread.

People: **Strengthen our faith in You, that we may look forward to that day when You return to take us to be with Yourself.**

Pastor: For the spread of the Gospel to all lands; for peace in our troubled world; for justice to be served; for nations to honor You; for seasonable weather; for all things that give glory to You, we pray, asking Your mercy,

People: **for the sake of Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord. Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper everywhere and always to give thanks to You, loving Father, holy and almighty Lord, eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and was taken up to heaven in their sight that He might make us partakers of His divine nature. Therefore, with angels and archangels, the saints in heaven and those on earth, we glorify Your name, praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



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!

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI



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.

After the Words of Institution are spoken, the bread and wine (sealed in a plastic chalice) will be distributed to communicants in the pew. Non-alcoholic elements have the letters "NA" written on the top of the chalice.

Please wait to open the sealed chalice until after the bread and wine has been distributed to everyone. When all have received the bread and wine, we will all take the body of blood of Christ together at the same time.

The ushers will collect the used communion cup when you are dismissed to leave after the closing hymn

ANTHEM

“Across The Lands”

Getty & Townend

*You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice
Let the skies declare Your glory
Let the land and seas rejoice*

Chorus *You're the author of creation
You're the Lord of ev'ry man
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands*

*Yet You left the gaze of angels
Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross
With a prayer You fed the hungry
With a word You stilled the sea
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free (Chorus)*

*With a shout You rose victorious
Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home (Chorus)*

PRAYER

Pastor: Ascended Lord, risen King, You have left for us a foretaste of the feast to come in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Strengthen us through this heavenly food for greater service to You until You come again. We pray in Your holy name, Jesus.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious (sung by all)

- 1 **Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious;
See the Man of Sorrows now!
From the fight returned victorious,
Ev'ry knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
Crowns become the victor's brow. (2X)**

- 2 **Crown the Savior! Angels, crown Him!
Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
On the seat of pow'r enthrone Him
While the vault of heaven rings.
Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
Crown the Savior King of kings. (2X)**

(continued on next page)

3 **Sinners in derision crowned Him,
 Mocking thus the Savior's claim;
 Saints and angels crowd around Him,
 Own His title, praise His name.
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 Spread abroad the victor's fame. (2X)**

4 **Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
 Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
 Jesus takes the highest station;
 Oh, what joy the sight affords!
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X)
 King of kings and Lord of lords! (2X)**

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POSTLUDE

"Toccatà in D Minor"

Gaston Belier

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	James Marriott
Liturgist:	Theodore Laesch
Singers:	Lynda Christian Ellory Glenn
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer
Instrumentalists:	Anne Meyer, trumpet Jonah Meyer, percussion

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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Worship and Christian Education

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service broadcast on KFUD 850 AM Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
Live internet streaming at www.chapelofthecross.org Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,
the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,
and the 1st and 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the month at 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday school for children, Sunday Bible classes for adults and youth – 9:45 a.m.

Chapel Ministry Staff

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Missions

Chapel of the Cross supports the ministry of the English District and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as the Lutheran High School Association. We also assist the following ministries and organizations:

Day 3 Seeds	Hope Center for Families	Apple of His Eye
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Lutherans for Life	KFUD Radio
Chapel Summer Camp		

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran is affiliated with the
English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*