


Ascension Worship
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 7:00pm



Messiah Lutheran Church
We Welcome You to the Lord's House

*"May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.."*
Psalm 141:2

THE PRELUDE

THE GREETING

THE HYMN OF INVOCATION *"A Hymn of Glory, Let Us Sing" LSB 493*

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!

The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful foll'wers see their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"You see Him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia, alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE INVOCATION

P We celebrate tonight in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.

C **For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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. Let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father.

j C **O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow His guidance, and our reluctance to bear the cross. We acknowledge that we are by nature sinful and unclean and know in our hearts that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us for all that is amiss in our lives, as we continually break Your commands. As You forgive us, help us forgive others. We here repent of all our sin and ask for Your mercy.**

P Our merciful God is pleased to have all His fullness dwell in His crucified, risen, and ascended Son, Jesus Christ. He alone is the image of God, and in Him all things hold together. Through faith in Christ, you and I have been reconciled to God and stand renewed in His presence. As a called and ordained servant of Christ the King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 with Him there, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

¶ WE CONFESS OUR FAITH-*The 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 worshipped 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.**

THE SERMON HYMN "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" LSB 492

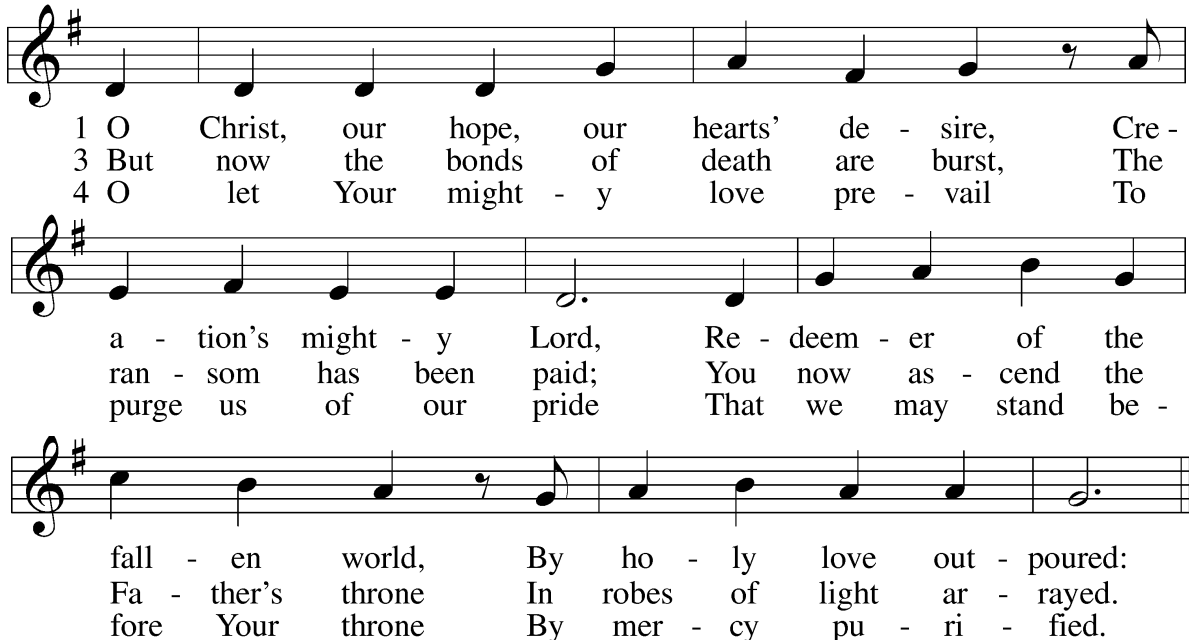
On Christ's ascension I now build the hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled all doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.

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.

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.

THE SERMON

THE RESPONSE "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire" LSB 553



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To
a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the
ran - som has been paid; You now as - cend the
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -
fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:
Fa - ther's throne In robes of light ar - rayed.
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING HYMN *"Praise and Thanksgiving" LSB 789*

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, created good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Father, providing food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing
With us, all others may know Your care.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into our world with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for His life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection.
- C** **Most especially today we thank You for seating Him at Your right hand in His ascension. We thank You for we know that Christ is ascended.**
- P** Lord, at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples out to the ends of the earth with a mission to be witnesses of His resurrection. Strengthen us as we continue their faithful witness.
- C** **Embolden all missionaries and evangelists by constantly opening a door for Your Word to be spoken. We ask this in faith for we know that Christ is ascended.**
- P** Lord, thank You for sending the promised Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our ways. Conform our lives to the Word of God and transform us by the renewing of our minds. We ask this with boldness for we know that Christ is ascended.
- C** **Lord, we live in a world with imperfect leaders, imperfect laws, and imperfect communities, but we know that all things are under Christ's feet, and He has all power and authority. So we ask for You to send Your perfect wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, instill Your perfect justice in our lawyers and judges, and bring Your perfect hope to our communities. We ask this in hope for we know that Christ is ascended.**
- P** Lord, we ask for Your comfort for all those who grieve the death of loved ones, grant them peace as they find hope in the resurrection to eternal life. We ask this knowing that Christ is ascended.
- C** **Heavenly Father, You again welcome us at Your Table to give us a foretaste that prepares us for the feast to come in Your kingdom, which by faith awaits us. Strengthen us all through this blessed bread and cup that we live with assurance and confidence, ready for the day Jesus returns to take us Home. Amen.**

THE PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

P It is truly good and right 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:

THE SANCTUS (LSB 525)



Crown Him the Lord of light, Whom heav'n and earth a -



dore. Crown Him the Lord of pow'r and might, Who



leads His hosts in war! Shout your ho - san - nas



loud To the blest, com - ing King, For



He'll re - turn up - on the clouds And life e - ter - nal bring.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

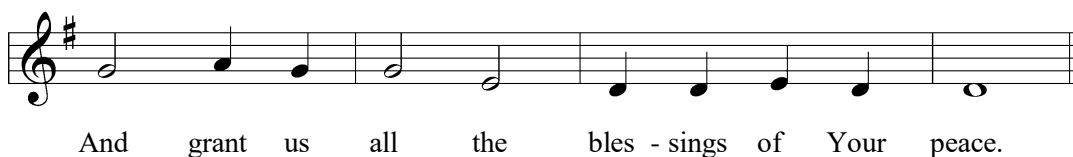
C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, 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. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.' The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE AGNUS DEI [LSB 917]



THE COMMUNION

If you are a guest with us this evening and would like to commune, please read the article on the back page. If you are unable to kneel, you are welcome to stand at the communion rail. Thank you.

THE COMMUNION HYMN "Beautiful Savior"

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in the flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Crown Him the Lord of might, Who bids us go in -
peace, For our own eyes have seen His light Which
nev - er shall de-crease! Sal - va - tion is pre -
pared For each com - mu - ni - ty, For
Christ has ev - er-more de-clared His per-fect vic - to - ry!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast that awaits us when Your Son returns.
- C** **Keep us firm in the true faith and lead us as Your witnesses, proclaiming repentance and the forgiveness of sins to everyone in the name of Your Son, our ascended Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

- P** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
- C** **and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**
- P** Go out into the world with peace and joy, for 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. The blessing of God Almighty—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you always.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** Christ is risen, ascended, and glorified!
- C** **He sits at the right hand of the Father, enthroned in power and glory. Alleluia and Amen!**

THE SILENT PRAYER

Risen and ascended Lord, enlighten my heart that I may know the hope to which You have called me. Center my faith in You. Strengthen me for what lies ahead as I embrace Your promise of a better future; for You live and reign the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" LSB 883



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
I this day have done, That with the world, my -
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake! Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

Peace be with you
John 14:27

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

As You come to the Lord's Supper, you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that with Lutheran Christians, you believe His Body and Blood are present and you desire to serve Him as a dynamic disciple in the fellowship of all believers. Our Holy Communion practice is called "CLOSE" communion, not "CLOSED" communion. "Close" communion invites all those who answer the following questions in the affirmative. We DO seek to help each visitor and member, to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament. If you have not communed with us before, or if you cannot answer yes to the questions below, please speak to our Pastor or an Elder before communing.

1. Have I been baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
3. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?
4. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His true Body and Blood?
5. Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a Godly life?

At Messiah, Communion is distributed in a manner whereby the individual cup, followed by the common cup, are offered at the same table. Communicants seated in the middle sections of the Sanctuary proceed to the altar first, standing behind the usher. Then the communicants in the side sections will proceed to the altar, also standing behind the usher. This will provide a prayerful setting surrounding the significance of receiving Christ's body and blood.

A light, alcohol-free wine is offered in clear glasses in the individual trays. Gluten-free wafers are available at the usher table in the back.

Those Serving Us in Worship Tonight

PASTOR	Rev. Matthew Allen Lee
ELDERS	Larry Bryant, Kevin Warneke
ORGANIST	Teresa Logue
USHERS	Bruce Kofoed, Chris Trimpe
SOUND MIXER	Danny Ladishew, Chuck Tolsma

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