



Sunday, May 21st, 2023

Ascension

Service Theme

HE LIVES TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH

We understand why God became man in the person of Christ. The Saviour needed to be able to suffer and die to atone for mankind's sin. What is fascinating is that when the work of redemption was completed, the Son of God did not set aside his humanity. The God-man ascended into heaven. It is a human, our brother, who sits on heaven's throne. The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. While on earth, Jesus had set aside so much of his divine power. But Jesus now picks all that power back up again. He ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. He lives! And he is in absolute and perfect control, ruling over Creation for the eternal well-being of his friends. And that is what we are! The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -
 Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend
 Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the
 re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
 songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?"

Order of Service
 Common Service (p.15)

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sing) Amen.

Confession and Absolution

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *(sing)* **glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

First Reading
Acts 1:1-11 (EHV)

Jesus tells his disciples that although he going to ascend, they will not be left alone. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to them and to us.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² 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."

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

⁷ He 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."

Psalm
47 (p. 85)

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Clap your hands, all you nations;^{*}
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,^{*}
the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations;^{*}
God is seated on his holy throne.

Refrain

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,^{*}
the LORD amid the sounding of
trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;^{*}
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;^{*}
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**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.

Refrain

Second Lesson
Ephesians 1:16-23 (EHV)

St. Paul teaches that Jesus ascended so that he might fill all creation with his presence and his power. Nothing is outside his control.

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.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia.
(Matthew 28:20)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53 (EHV)

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

Jesus ascends, and instead of being sad, his disciples are filled with joy. They understood that Christ's ascension marked his coronation as the King.

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.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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On Christ's Ascension I Now Build



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, Great gifts for
3 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing



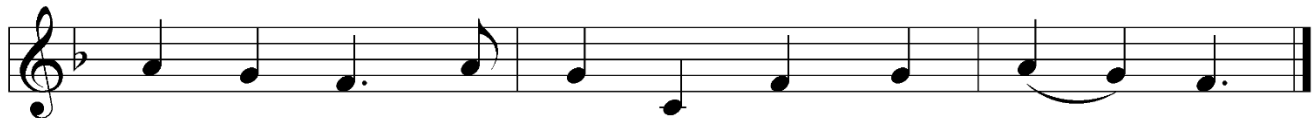
my as - cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled
me ob - tain - ing, My heart shall rest in him a - lone,
your as - cen - sion, That I may serve you faith - ful - ly,



All doubt and ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the
No oth - er rest re - main - ing, For where my
A - dorn - ing your re - demp - tion; And then, when



head is, there as well I know his mem - bers
trea - sure went be - fore, There all my thoughts shall
all my days will cease, Let me de - part in



are to dwell When Christ shall come and call them.
ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Sermon Text & Theme

Luke 24:50-52

THIS PARTING WAS THE SWEETEST SORROW

- 1) Because of the way Jesus left
- 2) Because of the place where Jesus went

Response: "Create In Me"

C: (sing) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for Ascension

Lord Jesus, great champion of our salvation, we praise you for ascending to heaven after your stunning victory over sin, Satan, and the grave. We praise you for completing your Father's rescue plan and for receiving from him all authority in heaven and on earth. Assure us each day that because you live and reign, our sins are forgiven, life is worth living, and death holds no terrors.

Lord Jesus, living head of the Church, we praise you for gathering us around your good news to be joined to you and united with one another. We praise you for the many dedicated servants of the Word who proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to people from all nations, also to us. Equip us to be instruments of your peace in our time and place. Open our mouths to speak your good news, and change our lives so that we reflect the beauty of the teachings of God our Savior in everything we do.

Lord Jesus, mighty judge of the universe, we praise you for your promise that you will return to our world, not as a humble servant but in full majesty, to take us to live with you. We praise you for the certainty of your promises and the justice of your judgment. Prepare us for the day when you will come again; give us hearts that trust you more fully, hands eager to serve, ears opened to the music of your gospel, and lips to speak the truth in love. Keep us devoted to our common tasks in this life, yet keep our minds on things above, where our life is hidden with you, so that when you appear, we too will appear with you in glory.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Lord Jesus, hear us, for you have ascended to intercede before the Father for us. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his
 2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your
 3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he
 4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he
 5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
 heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered
 loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing
 shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious
 veil - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
 death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!
 to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.
 lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
 all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain
 Partners in your endless reign,
 There your face unclouded view,
 Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sing)* **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord *and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: *(sing)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Word of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night 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."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen.**

Distribution

Thanksgiving

C: *(sing)* **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: *(sing)* **And his mercy endures forever.**

Final Prayer

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

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On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, be -
2 To you our wants are known; From you are all our
3 Oh, grant that each of us Now met be - fore you



stow; The pow'r is yours a - lone To make it
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own And par - don
here May meet to - geth - er thus When you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
yours ap - pear And fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise And you a - lone shall have the praise!
ceive And to your Word a bless - ing give.
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

May 28 – Simon // May 28 – Simon

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (21) **10:30 am** **Worship & Communion with Pastor Lindke**
 11:45 am **Coffee Hour**

Pastor Sullivan will be out of town until May 22

Th (25) **6:30 pm** **Confirmation (W)**

Fr (26) **3:00 pm** **Online Women's Bible Study**
 4:30 pm **Confirmation (D)**

Su (28) **9:00 am** **Sunday School and Bible Class**
 10:30 am **Worship with Communion**
 11:45 am **Coffee Hour**
 12:00 pm **Evangelism**

Tu (30) **7:00 pm** **Council Meeting**

Th (1) **10:30 am** **Longfield Devotion**
 6:30 pm **Confirmation (W)**

Fr (2) **3:00 pm** **Online Women's Bible Study**
 4:30 pm **Confirmation (D)**
 6:00 pm **Friday Fellowship & Bible Study**

Su (4) **9:00 am** **Sunday School and Bible Class**
 10:30 am **Worship with Communion**
 11:45 am **First Fellowship**
 3:00 pm **Worship & Communion in Poltimore**
 4:00 pm **Meet and Greet in Poltimore**

Pastor Sullivan will be out of town from June 5-8 for District Conference



Divine Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629

www.divinewordottawa.ca