

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

7:00 pm Thursday, May 18, 2023

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

[Rise] Easter Acclamation



Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Kneel]

Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit of the Day



[Antiphon] *Men of | Ga-li-lee, || why do you stand gazing up into heaven? | Al-le-lu-
ia! || This same Jesus, who was taken up from you up | in-to •heaven•, || will
come as you saw Him go into heaven. | Al-le-lu- | ia!*

Verse 1: **Oh, clap your hands, | all you •peoples! || Shout to God | with the voice of |
•triumph! || For the LORD Most | High is •awesome•; || He is a great King
| o-ver all the | earth.**

Verse 2: *God has gone up | with a shout, || the LORD with the | sound •of a• trum- | pet.
|| God reigns over the | na-__ tions; || God sits | on His ho-ly | throne.*

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho-ly | •Spirit•; || As it was
in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- | men!**

[Antiphon] *Men of | Ga-li-lee, || why do you stand gazing up into heaven? | Al-le-lu-
ia! || This same Jesus, who was taken up from you up | in-to •heaven•, || will
come as you saw Him go into heaven. | Al-le-lu- | ia!*

Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy up - on _ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord _ have mer - cy up - on _ us.

Gloria



Glo-ry be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will •toward• men.



We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we



glo-ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo - ry



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God _ the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on _ us: Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world; re-ceive our prayer Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the



Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us. For Thou on-ly art ho-ly, Thou on-ly art the Lord. Thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glo-ry of God-the Fa-ther. A-men.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir-it.

Collect for Ascension: *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:*



A-men!

[Be Seated]

+ The Office of the Word of God +

First Reading..... Acts 1:1-11

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God.

Epistle of the Day Ephesians 1:15-23

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God.

[Rise] **Sequence Hymn Lord, Enthroned Burgundy Hymn 534**

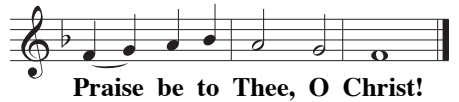
Holy Gospel St. Luke 24:44-53

[The Gospel is announced.]

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Confession of Faith (The 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

[Bow] 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!

[After the Gospel has been returned to the Altar following the Creed, the congregation is seated.]

Hymn of the Day ... See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph RED Hymn 218

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women sing stanza 3; Men sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5 & 6. Rise for Stanza 6.]

Sermon

[Rise] Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever **Amen.**

[Be Seated] Offerings

Voluntary

[Rise] OffertoryCreate in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And with thy spir-it. We lift _ them up un - to _ the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet ___ and right so ___ to do. ___

Proper Preface for Ascension, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ___ ho - ly, ___ ho - ly, ___
Lord God of Sab - a-oth; heav - en and _ earth are
full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless-ed is ___ He that com - eth in the name _ of the

Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

[Remain standing] **Lord's Prayer**

[Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art in heaven; but deliver us from evil.*

For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry
for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

A - men

Agnus Dei

[Vs. 1 & 2] O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

[Vs. 3] O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the
sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns **Wide Open Stands** **Burgundy Hymn 639**

Up Through Endless Ranks **Burgundy Hymn 491**

[Rise for stanza 4.]

Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Cantic **The Nunc Dimittis**

1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.
2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.



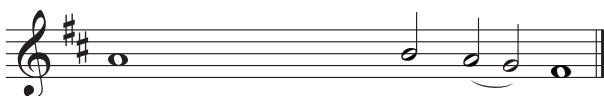
4. Glo- ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it was in the beginning, is now, and e-ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



And His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

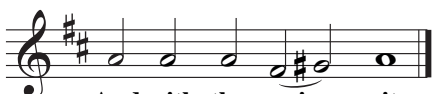
Prayer of Thanksgiving ...now and forever.



A - men.

The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.



And with thy spir - rit.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



A-men, A-men, A - men.



Christ is risen. Al-le-lu-ia! He is risen in-deed! Alleluia! Al-le-lu-ia!

During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn On Christ's Ascension Burgundy Hymn 492

Postlude

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Readings for the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord

The First Reading is 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. He presented himself alive to them 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. [*The Paschal candle is withdrawn from our 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.”

The Epistle is Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, because I 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 he 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.

The Gospel is Luke 24:44-53

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.

Hymns for the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord

LSB534 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

George H. Bourne

1. Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor, First-begotten from the dead,
You alone, our strong defender, Lifting up Your people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Jesus, true and living bread!
Jesus, true and living bread!
2. Though the lowliest form now veil You As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there Your angels hail You, Branch and flow'r of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! We in worship join with them;
We in worship join with them.
3. Paschal Lamb, Your off'ring, finished Once for all when You were slain,
In its fullness undiminished Shall forevermore remain.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain;
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.
4. Life imparting heav'nly manna, Stricken rock with streaming side,
Heav'n and earth with loud hosanna Worship You, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Ris'n, ascended, glorified!
Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

TLH218 See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

Christopher Wordsworth

1. See, the Conqu'ror mounts in triumph; See the 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 hath gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He hath vanquished sin and Satan; He by death hath spoiled His foes.
- W3. While He lifts His hands in blessing He is parted from His friends;
While their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased him,
Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated To His everlasting home.
- M4. Now our heav'nly Aaron enters With His blood within the veil;
Joshua now is come to Canaan, and the kings before Him quail.

Now He plants the tribes of Israel In their promised resting-place,
Now our great Elijah offers Double portion of His grace.

5. Thou hast raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heavenly places, There with Thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
Mighty Lord, in Thine ascension We by faith behold our own.

- △ 6. Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son,
Dying, risen, ascending for us, Who the heavenly realm hath won;
Glory to the Holy Spirit! To One God in Persons Three
Glory both in earth and heaven, Glory, endless glory, be.

LSB639 Wide Open Stand the Gates

J. K. Wilhelm Loehe

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1. Wide open stand the gates adorned with pearl,
While round God's golden throne
The choirs of saints in endless circles curl,
And joyous praise the Son!
They watch Him now descending To visit waiting earth.
The Lord of Life unending Brings dying hope new birth!
2. He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless:
"This is My flesh and blood!"
He bids us eat and drink with thankfulness
This gift of holy food.
All human thought must falter—Our God stoops low to heal,
Now present on the altar, For us both host and meal!
3. The cherubim, their faces veiled from light,
While saints in wonder kneel,
Sing praise to Him whose face with glory bright
No earthly masks conceal.
This sacrament God gives us Binds us in unity,
Joins earth with heav'n beyond us, Time with eternity!

LSB491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

Jaroslav J. Vajda

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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!

LSB492 On Christ's Ascension Now I Build

Josua Wegelin

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1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.



What Doctor Luther Says:

About Christ's Ascension ... A Gift of Righteousness

It is strange indeed that we are to be called righteous or to possess a righteousness which is really no work, no thought, in short, nothing whatever in us but is entirely outside us in Christ and yet becomes truly ours by reason of His grace and gift Nothing at all in me makes me pleasing to God and saves me; but that I leave myself and all human thoughts and ability out of account and cling to Christ, who sits up there at the right hand of God and whom I do not even see.

Faith must lay hold of this, must be founded on it, and must take comfort from it in times of temptation, when the devil and man's own conscience argue with him as follows: "Listen. What kind of Christian are you? Where is your righteousness? Do you not see and feel that you are a sinner? How, then will you pass muster before God?" Here again he must base his words on this verse and say: "I know very well, and I am sorry to say, that I am a sinner and that in me there is no righteousness that will be valid before God. And I must and will not look for or know of such righteousness in myself, for with it I could never come before God. But in this verse [John 16:10] I hear Christ say that my righteousness consists in His going to the Father and in His ascension into heaven. There my righteousness has been deposited, and there the devil will surely have to let it remain; for he will not make Christ a sinner or reprove or find fault with His righteousness. If I am a sinner and my life does not pass muster before God, and if I find no righteousness in myself, I have another treasure, which is the righteousness of which I boast and on which I rely. This is Christ's going to the Father, which He has presented to me as a gift." What does this righteousness lack, or what flaw can you find in it? You surely do not see or feel anything of it, do you? Answer: "Indeed, Christ Himself defines and describes righteousness by saying that I will not feel it but must take hold of it by faith in Christ's Word 'you will see Me no more.' ..."

Luther's Works, 24:347-8.