

**The Ascension of
OUR LORD**



Grace Lutheran Church

Thursday, 29 May 2025

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 29, 2025

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious"
"Hail Thee, Festival Day"

arr. J. Mansfield
setting: R. Powell

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Hail Thee, Festival Day"

LSB 489 sts. ref-a-6

Refrain
All

Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.

All

Ascension 1 He who was nailed to the cross Is rul - er and
3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, The rul - er of

Lord of all peo - ple. All things cre -
earth and the heav - ens, Guard us from

at - ed on earth Sing to the glo - ry of God:
harm with - out; Cleanse us from e - vil with - in:

Refrain
All

Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;

Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign.

Choir 3 3

Ascension 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, A - dorned with the
4 Je - sus, the health of the world, Cre - a - tor of

glo - ry of blos - som; Heav - en her gate - way un -
all and re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -

bars, Fling - ing her in - crease of light:
preme, On - ly - be - got - ten of God:

5 Spirit of life and of pow'r,
Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all,
Life that in all may abide: Refrain

6 Praise to the giver of good!
O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days;
Order our ways in Your peace: Refrain

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811
Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Acts 1:6, 11; Luke 24:46–47; Ephesians 1:22–23

P Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?

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

P It is written, that the Christ should suffer

C **and on the third day rise from the dead,**

P and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations.

C **God gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to our gracious God.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P God did not leave us devoid of power and love. Christ ascended to His throne above but is with us still. The Holy Spirit did not give us faith for a short time but is with us throughout our time on earth. Your sins were forgiven by the death of Christ on the cross and by His glorious resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

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. 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 47; antiphon: v. 5

C **God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

P Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom He loves.

C **God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

P Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!

C **God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

EPISTLE READING

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C **death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.**

P Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

C **Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44–53

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

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

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN

“Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

LSB 491



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
 △ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
 With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948, Text: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: © 1973 Henry V. Gerike. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

SERMON

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Christ has ascended to the Father but is with us in power to continue the mission of the church, the Body of Christ. Let us pray for people everywhere.
- A** For the whole church, witness to the risen and ascended Christ,
C **that we all proclaim His victory over sin and death;**
- P** for all who proclaim the Gospel,
C **that they announce the promise of a new heaven and a new earth;**
- A** and for all who have just come to faith,
C **that the Spirit enable them to understand the fullness of Christ's love. Lord have mercy.**
- P** For the nations of the world and all relief agencies,
C **that God guide them in seeking peace and cooperation;**

A for all who work in business and all who help the downtrodden and distressed,
C **that they provide all that is needed in food, clothing, and shelter;**

P and for continued scientific research,
C **that we may utilize the bounty of God's good creation. Lord, have mercy.**

A For favorable weather,
C **that we may praise God for recreation, leisure, and the growth of crops;**

P for all who suffer, [including . . .], that God provide relief where it fits His plans for them,
C **and that we may be part of His answer to prayer;**

A for this congregation and all who work with us,
C **that we rededicate ourselves to the mission of our ascended Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands we entrust ourselves and all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"We Have a Gospel to Proclaim"

arr. C. Penfield

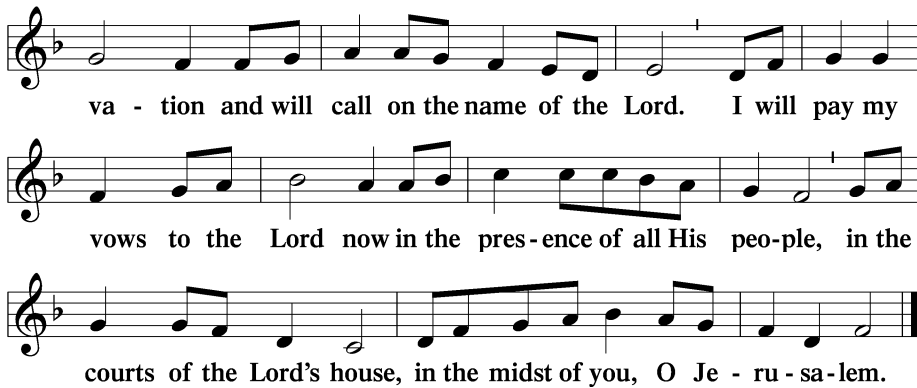
Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We believe that our Savior, whom the disciples saw ascend, is with us today. Grant us to eat and drink faithfully of the fruits of Jesus' cross and to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P 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 cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.
--	--

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN**"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"****LSB 492**

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



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt., Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY**"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"**

setting: T. Lock

"Our Christ Ascends"

T. Kendall

*Stand***THANK THE LORD****LSB 164**

☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,
- G** and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** 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.
- G** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

LSB 493



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!

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!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt., Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: Public domain

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

arr. H. DeCou