

Grow....Go....Gather

May 24, 2020



ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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The Seventh Sunday of Easter Ascension Day (Observed)

Welcome - *Call to Worship*

P: Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Through Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

God's Greeting

P: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. (*Rev. 1:4-5, NRSV*)

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: LSB #477, "Alleluia, Alleluia!
Hearts to Heaven"



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:

2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris-en! Death at last has met de-feat:

△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;

See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;

Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—

Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,

Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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Opening Sentences

P: Father, O God most high, who dwells in the highest of heavens,

C: we praise you.

P: Father, O Lord most exalted, beyond our thoughts and imaginations,

C: we praise you.

P: We celebrate the victory of your Son, who has overcome death and saved us from the power of sin.

C: We rejoice in his exaltation!

P: Our great high priest has gone before, has entered into the Holy of Holies, and has opened up a way for us to follow. In his name, we too would enter into your eternal presence, for he is our priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

C: To him be all praise, together with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one Lord, the same in every age. Amen and Amen.

(Hughes Oliphant Old, Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers. © 1995, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

Call to Confession

P: While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, the way we live often proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice. Let us pray.

C: We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Hear the good news of the gospel: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

C: In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.
(based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV)

A Hymn of Praise: "Above All" (Lenny LeBlanc)

Verse 1

Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure
What You're worth

Chorus

***Crucified laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all***

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An Ascension Day Prayer

P: Let us pray:

C: 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. Amen.

The Scripture Readings (Appointed for Ascension Day)

The First Reading

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. To them he presented himself alive 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. 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Second 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The 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.**



The Sermon Hymn: LSB 492 "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"



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.

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The Sermon

The Offering

A Hymn: LSB 494, "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" (verse 1, 2, 5). **NOTE:** We will sing it to the tune of: LSB 803, "Hymn to Joy"

- 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.

Text: Public domain

A Litany for Ascension Day (Based on Texts from J. S. Bach's Cantata "Gott fahret auf mit Jauchzen" [BWV 43]
By [David J. Diephouse](#). From *Reformed Worship*, March 2007,
Used with permission for congregational use.)

P: Our God goes up with shouts of joy!

C: Our Lord ascends to the sound of trumpets!

All: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises, sing praises to our King!

P: The Almighty rides in triumph.

C: The Almighty leads captivity captive.

P: Who shouts for joy? Who blows the trumpet?

C: The hosts of heaven sing the honor of his name; they praise him with an endless alleluia.

All: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises, sing praises to our King!

P: The Lord has brought down death itself.

C: The Lord has wiped away the stain of sin.

P: The Lord has trodden the winepress of suffering; he has paid the price to rescue the lost.

C: Now he returns to his throne of glory; the hour has come to reclaim his crown.

All: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises, sing praises to our King!

P: Jesus Christ, the Prince of Life, now reigns in heaven with the Father.

C: Jesus Christ, the Prince of Life, now rules in the congregation of the righteous.

P: Ascended Lord, how can we honor you enough? Ascended Lord, how can we rightly praise the victory you have won? Prepare us for that welcome day when we shall behold you in all your majesty.

C: Prepare us for that welcome day when we shall stand before you and rejoice forever.

All: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises, sing praises to our King!

A Prayer/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 Benediction

The Closing Hymn: LSB 493, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (verses 1, 4, 5, 6)




1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
 4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up
 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And
 Δ 6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, All



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,
 be our fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia,
 praise to You let earth ac - cord: Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 al - le - lu - ia! Then, throned with You for - ev - er,
 al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less a - ges



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -
 we Shall praise Your name e - ter - nal -
 run, With Fa - ther and with Spir - it



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 one. 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!

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This worship outline is adapted from the opening service of the "With a Shout: What Difference Does the Ascension Make for Everyday Life?" conference held on Ascension Day 2006 at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Used with Permission for congregational setting. "From *Reformed Worship* 103 © 2012 Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events of the Week: May 24 – May 31, 2020

TODAY: 9:30 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live) and at
11:00 a.m. Bible study w/ Pastor (Facebook Live)

Monday – OFFICES CLOSED – Memorial Day

Tuesday – Thurs: Noon Devotions w/ Pastor (Facebook)

Thursday: 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. Holy Communion @ St. James

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live) and at
11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor (Facebook Live)

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (May 14, 2020)

	<u>Offering</u>
General Fund	\$3,358.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
Plate Collection	1,060.00
ISJ Academy (Walk-A-Thon)	25.00
Social Ministry	100.00
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Total:	\$4,618.00

The deadline for bulletin contributions is Wednesday morning of each week. The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month. Thank you.

