

**Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School**  
**The Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)**  
**May 12, 2024 - 8:00 am Worship Service**

**Welcome to Worship!**

*While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.*

**Information about the Worship Service.**

✠ *Out of respect for our Lord, His house and those worshipping here today, please silence your cell phones and limit the use of your smart phones to something that will not distract those around you. Looking up a Bible passage is always welcomed.*

**Pre-Service Music**

**Pastorale**

Louis Vierne

**Ringing of Bell & Welcome**

*Please rise and face the Processional Cross as it is carried to the chancel.*

**Opening Hymn**

**Hail Thee, Festival Day**

**LSB 489**

*We sing lines marked "Ascension" and stanzas 3-6.*

*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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;'. Above the staff, 'Refrain' and 'All' are written. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.'. A box labeled '1st time only' is placed above the final measure of the second staff, which is a double bar line with repeat dots.

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



*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

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## Characters in God's Word

## # 63 Chiding Angel

**P** God's Word instructs us "we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" (*Hebrews 12:1*)

**C** **We are encouraged to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ.**

**P** God, we thank You for examples in Your Holy word of faithfulness to You

**C** **We thank You for the voice of the "Chiding Angel." An unnamed angel who encourages Your disciples to not just stand gazing into the sky.**

- P** Instead the angel reminds them that Jesus will come back in the same way they saw Him go into heaven.
- C** **Help us so that we do not stand idly by but that we are actively engaged in sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.**
- P** Give us courage and perseverance to run the race of life
- C** **With eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**
- P** Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (*Hebrews 12:2 adapted*)
- C** **And now intercedes for us that we might grow in our faith in Him.**

**✠ Service of the Word ✠**

**Kyrie**

**LSB 152**

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## This Is the Feast

LSB 155



**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*



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



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

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

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

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

**Acts 1:1–11**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>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.

## Epistle

**Ephesians 1:15–23**

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he put

all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>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.**

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>44</sup>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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



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!

## Message

## ***“Chiding Angel”***

**Acts 1:6-11**

*(See back page of bulletin announcements for message notes)*

## Apostles' Creed

**☩ 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.**

## Offering Hymn

## ***Up through Endless Ranks of Angels***

**LSB 491**



*You may place your offering in the plate as it is passed through your pew. If you prefer you may also place it in the back of church after the service. If you would like to be part of our online giving community, feel free to scan this QR code for access to our app and giving portal. You may also text “Suburbanblc” to 833-418-8983.*



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!

*Please rise as the offering is brought to the Lord's altar.*

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

☩ 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.

### Benediction

LSB 166

☩ 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.

☩ Amen.

## Hymn to Depart

## *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.

## Entering the Mission Field

- P Go in peace; serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## Post-Service Music

## *All Glory Be to God on High*

Timothy Albrecht

## Acknowledgments

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