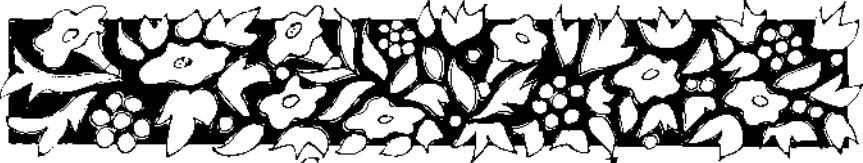




**The Ascension of Our Lord
May 21, 2020**

**“Making Disciples of Jesus:
Gathering...Growing...Going...”**

The Ascension of Our Lord



Our Worship

(Our worship service today follows Service of the Word found in Christian Worship.)

THEME: *God Has Ascended Amid Shouts of Joy*

Forty days after his resurrection Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. Since the early centuries of the Christian church this event has been celebrated with enthusiasm and triumphant joy.

Knowing that Jesus Christ is in heaven, we are assured of his absolute authority and control over all things.

Saint Peter Lutheran Church

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Online streamed services Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
(see our Facebook page)

Serving Today: Worship leader - Pr. Jack Kelly
 Organ/piano - Jim Bakken
 Quartet - Holly Springer, Polly Holz
 John & Matthew Springer
 A/V Technician- Steve Willett

OPENING HYMN

CW #173 *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
treas - ure 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 - answer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

Tune: NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524.

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 47*

P: Clap your hands, all you nations;

C: shout to God with cries of joy.

P: How awesome is the LORD Most High,

C: the great King over all the earth!

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God is seated on his holy throne.

P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

C: the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

C: sing praises to our King, sing praises.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

HYMN OF PRAISE CW #341:1 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav'ly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand your 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. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

The ascended Savior send out his disciples

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."

RESPONSE

CW #171:1,2 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with his followers they see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:16-23

The ascended Savior rules everything

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.

RESPONSE

CW #171:3,4 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

3 To them the shining angels cry,
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**"This is the Savior," thus they say.
"This is his glorious triumph day."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**4 "You see him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus' ascension moves His disciples to joy

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.

RESPONSE

CW #171:5,6 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

**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!**

**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: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen, Geistliche Kirchengesang, Köln, 1623, alt.*

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

SERMON THEME

Victory Over Everything!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CREED *Martin Luther's explanation of the second article
I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the
Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin
Mary, is my Lord.*

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death.

All this he did that I should be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death, and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

ANTHEM

There Is a Higher Throne
Keith & Kristyn Getty, arr. Robert E. Grass

OFFERING

The members of Saint Peter Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. May God bless us as we do his work! To give an offering with your smartphone, text "givesplc" to 77977 and click on the link that you receive. Offerings can be given by credit card, debit card, or your bank account. Offerings can also be given by going to our website (saintpeterlutheran.org) or mailed to 427 W. Mulberry, Saint Peter MN 56082.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

P: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

P: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

P: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

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.**

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: God of time and eternity, as time flows by we are faced with changes and new horizons. But our times are in your hands. You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord in gladness. 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. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW # 170 – *Draw Us to Thee*

1 Draw us to thee, For then shall we Walk in
2 Draw us to thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us
3 Draw us to thee; Oh, grant that we May walk
4 Draw us to thee That al - so we Thy heav'n -
5 Draw us to thee Un - ceas - ing - ly; In - to

thy steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where
de - part with glad - ness That we may be For -
the road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest
ly bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where
thy king - dom take us. Let us for - 'er Thy

thou art gone To be with thee, dear Sav - ior.
ev - er free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
we should stray And from thy paths be driv - en.
sin and hell No more can vex our spir - it.
glo - ry share; Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642–99; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: ACH GOTT UND HERR (447 447) As hymodus sacer, Leipzig, 1625, alt.

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FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Among the earliest of Christian celebrations, Ascension and Pentecost were closely linked together and held the same level of joy as Easter. In the 5th century there were attempts to mute the celebration of Ascension with days of “rogation” or penitential asking. The Western Church frowned on the idea; Ascension was to be a time for Hallelujahs. Chrysostom expressed the joy of Ascension well when he said, “we who appear unworthy of God’s earth are now taken up with him to heaven.”

During the past 40 days the Church has cried, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” Today we see Jesus departing from his disciples and enthroned in glory in heaven. From heaven he rules all things as our Lord and King. As we celebrate the day Jesus ascended into glory we also remember that he promised not to leave his disciples alone. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. In ten more days we will see how Jesus made good on His promise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The writer of the Ascension Prayer of the Day and our response hymn (CW 171) is the Venerable Bede. He was an English monk who lived around 700 AD. Known as “the Teacher of the Middle Ages,” Bede’s best known contribution is the system of dating events by years before or after Christ. (B.C. and A.D.). Bede died in 735 A.D. on the Feast of the Ascension, and the words he spoke on his deathbed serve as the Prayer of the Day for the Festival of the Ascension of our Lord. The words themselves flow from the great ascension texts. The prayer sets the tone for the Festival, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and his work on Pentecost.

