

May 21, 2023
Ascension Sunday



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #738

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

The Invocation

P Pastor

C Congregation

P In the name of God the Father:

C Praise to our creating God!

P In the name of His Son, Jesus:

C Praise to our redeeming God!

P In the name of God the Spirit:

C Praise to our renewing God!

P Let us join our thankful voices,

C Amen! Amen! Praise the Lord!



Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful & need His forgiveness.

P With the truth of Jesus' resurrection fresh in our hearts and minds, let us draw near confessing our sins and receiving the precious and firm gift of forgiveness.

C Eternal LORD God, by Your own Word You open the minds of those who hear to understand and believe that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not set our minds on things that are above, preferring instead things on the earth. By Your Word You call us to repent of our sin and believe in Your Son Jesus Christ, and for His sake You forgive all sin. Oh LORD, we repent of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P "Lifting up His hands, He blessed them." (Luke 24:50) Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called 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.

C Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 42; TLH 212

P Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

C ♪ *A Hymn of glory let us sing:*

New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

P For the LORD Most High is awesome;

C **He is a great King over all the earth.**

P He will subdue the peoples under us,

C **And the nations under our feet.**

C ♪ *The holy apostolic band*

Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia!

And with his faithful foll'wers see

Their Lord ascend in majesty.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

P He will choose our inheritance for us,

C **The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.**

P God has gone up with a shout,

C **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

P Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

C ♪ *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, alleluia!

P For God is the King of all the earth;

C **Sing praises with understanding.**

P God reigns over the nations;

C **God sits on His holy throne.**

C ♪ *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!

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P 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.

G Amen.

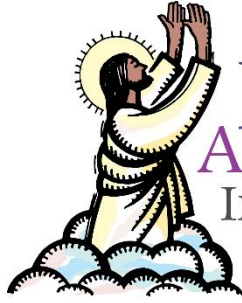
Luke 24:44-53

Then he 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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." ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had



HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

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

Confession of Faith

Col. 1:15-20

We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

- ☐ "Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and all things hold together in Him. He is also the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things He might have the highest rank. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself (whether things on earth or in heaven) by making peace through the blood of His cross." Amen.**

Hymn: WS #737

"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

The Ascension Gives Us Our Perfect Pitch

- I. It's perfect for revealing the false notes of this sinful world
- II. It's perfect for tuning our hearts to the glorious life to come



The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- C** *♩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #215

"Draw Us to Thee"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

P Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

P How do you know this?

C I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

P Are you sorry for your sins?

C Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

P What have you deserved to receive from God because of your sins?

The Order of Holy Communion



Q I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

P Do you also hope to be saved?

Q Yes, this is my hope.

P Whom do you then trust?

Q I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

P Who is Christ?

Q Christ is God's Son, true God and man.

P How many gods are there?

Q There is only one God, but three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

Q He shed His blood for me and died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

P Did the Father also die for you?

Q No, the Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is true God and true man; He shed His blood and died for me.

P How do you know this?

Q I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

P These are those Words of God:

Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P 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 His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: WS #800

"Go My Children, With My Blessing"

Mission Helper Trip Fund: This summer, we have the joyful privilege of sending three representatives from our congregation to our brothers and sisters-in-Christ in Nepal as part of this summer's CLC Mission Helper Trip. Lydia Ohlmann will be joined by Pastor Rodebaugh and Missionary Ohlmann. Please pray for all three as they continue to preparing and that the Lord would bless their efforts through His Word.

If you are able and willing to contribute funds to help offset the costs for Lydia to travel to Nepal this summer, you are invited to do so by contributing to our **Mission Helper Trip Fund**, by marking donations as such in your offering.

May 14th Offerings:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Offerings needed for budget | \$ 1,815.75 |
| General Fund Balance | \$ 1,661.54 |
| Faith-Blue Springs Balance | \$20,366.27 |
| Mission Helper Fund | \$37,394.59 |
| | \$ 400.00 |
| Total Cash All Funds | \$73,496.70 |

CLC Subscription Renewals: Annual renewals for both the *Daily Rest* devotional and *The Lutheran Spokesman* are due soon. The cost renewal cost breakdown is below:

- *Lutheran Spokesman* - \$14 for 12 monthly issues
- *Daily Rest* - \$15 for 4 quarterly devotional booklets

If you are subscribed and wish to remain subscribed, the payment will be made for you by the congregation. Please feel free to offset that cost in your offering.

If you would like to cancel your subscription OR if you would like to subscribe to one of these periodicals, please speak with Pastor, and he can assist you in this.

The Branches is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. Subscriptions are available for the 2023-2024 subscription year (July through June). The Branches staff prays that, through this publication, we serve:

- to encourage you in your personal and family Bible study
- to edify you in your daily walk with Christ
- to provide a means to use and share your God-given gifts
- to celebrate and reflect upon God's gift of Christian sisters, near and far

Consider a subscription for yourself and/or gift subscriptions for women in your life! The cost is \$15.00/year for 4 issues. Checks are payable to, "The Branches" and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal - you may contact Sandy Hulke at thebranchismagazine@gmail.com.

CLC Call News Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX **is considering the call** from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. <> Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI **has extended a call** to Pastor Sam Naumann of Resurrection Lutheran, Corpus Christi, TX.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; May 22 - 27, '23

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps. 119:105)

Mon John 7:33-36 When the Chief Priests and Pharisees heard that people were thinking that Jesus might be the Christ, they sent to have Him arrested. Jesus reply suggests that they are not getting rid of Him, but He is returning to the Father (v33). He would remove His visible presence also from His enemies.

Tues John 7:37-39 Remembering Jesus' ascension into heaven, we await the celebration of the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Jesus promised this gift to believers even before He was crucified, buried, and risen again.

Wed Ephesians 1:15-23 The gift of the Spirit has this purpose: to enlighten our hearts to the hope that is ours in Christ, to the richness of our inheritance in Him, and to the resurrection power working on our behalf through Him who was raised to life and seated at God's right hand forever.

Thur Psalm 42:1-5 As the deer in the wilderness cannot live without water, so our innermost being needs God at all times. Especially when we are away from our regular visible places of worship, we need the inner connection with Him who is "my salvation" (v5).

Fri Psalm 42:6-11 The Christian's life has its ups and downs. After being lifted up by God's comfort, another trouble casts us down, and some might repeat the taunt again, "Where is your God?" (v3,10). But God's love in Christ is not up and down. It is steadfast in the darkest of nights (v8). Hope in God!

Sat Matthew 10:16-22 The promise of the Spirit does not mean there will be no trouble or opposition. It is a promise of the right thing to say in the face of such difficulties. For the promised Spirit will make us witnesses before all kinds of people, and He gives us the assurance of salvation at the end of the road because of Jesus (v22).