

FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION

Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:00 pm

God's Saints Gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church, Glendora

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF BELL

WELCOME / GREETING

OPENING HYMN: 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

- 1 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!
 - 2 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!
 - 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, 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, alleluia!
 - 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!
- Δ 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!

THE ASCENSION CREED: (Based on Philippians 2)

C I believe that Jesus Christ, being true God, did not consider equality with God something He should cling to. In love for me, He who was God made Himself nothing and became man. As man, He humbled Himself and became obedient even unto death—even death on a cross.

But God exalted Him by raising Him from the dead. Now that He lives, God has given Him all glory and honor. Now Christ sits at the highest place in heaven—on God's throne. His Name is above every other name and I, too, shall bow before Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Lord of glory, our coming King, come to us. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

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.**

SONG OF ASCENSION: 491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

- 1 Up through endless ranks of angels, Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending, Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful, Leaving them in happy tears.
 - 2 Death-destroying, life-restoring, Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father, As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded, Living, for the wounded plead!
 - 3 To our lives of wanton wand'ring, Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure, With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed, To an endless Eastertide.
- Δ 4 Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The First Lesson: 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. 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.

And while staying with them [Jesus] 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 [Jesus], "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 ASCENSION PSALM: Psalm 47 (ESV)

P Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great King over all the earth.

P He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

C He chose our heritage for us, the pride 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!

P For God is the King of all the earth;

C sing praises with a psalm!

P God reigns over the nations;

C God sits on his holy throne.

P The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

C For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Our God Reigns” *Immanuel, Bridgman Adult Choir*

The Second Lesson: Eph. 1:15–23 (ESV)

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 the 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 [the Father] 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 [Christ’s] 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 ASCENSION OF CHRIST:

P During the past *forty* days we have celebrated Jesus’ Resurrection. Today’s Gospel lesson records the greatest event of Jesus’ earthly ministry, His glorious ascension into heaven. As His death on the cross forgave our sins, His resurrection proved the validity of His sacrifice. As we celebrate His ascension into heaven, we joyfully acknowledge that Jesus Christ is King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He is the “Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Seated at God’s right hand, He rules over all the world in majestic grace and power. If you are able, rise to honor our Ascended Lord and King!

The Congregation Shall Rise.

RESPONSE:

P God has gone up with a shout!

C Hallelujah!

THE ASCENSION GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-51 (p. 1644)

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."

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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." When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He [blessed them with the Aaronic “Lifting Up Of The Hands” Benediction]. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.

THE CHRIST CANDLE RECEPTION AND REMOVAL:

Worship Note: *The Christ Candle is removed from our eyes reminding us how Jesus was removed from the disciples eyes at Jesus’ ascension. The Christ Candle will be replaced in the sanctuary during Advent and re-lighted at Jesus’ incarnation on Christmas Eve.*

THE ASCENSION GOSPEL: Luke 24:52-53 (p. 1644) (Read From The Back Of The Sanctuary)

P “Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God...”

RESPONSE OF JOY:

P "Men of Galilee, 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."

C Lord, return to us today. Come to us in victory and redeem the world!

P God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

C The Lord has gone up with a shout! Alleluia!

P God has ascended amid shouts of joy!

C Praise the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Worthy is the Lamb to receive honor and glory and blessing and dominion forever.

C: Glory be to Him who sits on the throne. Alleluia!

HYMN OF JOY: "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" ILC Handbells with Congregation

Wonderful merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a lamb could, Rescue the souls of man
Oh you rescue the souls of man.

CHORUS: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our, Hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father, Faithfully loving Your own, Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne, Oh were falling before Your throne

CHORUS: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our, Hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for. **Ending:** Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

SERMON: *Rev. Brandon Wittig, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Sawyer, MI.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

THE OFFERING: *Unless otherwise designated, All offerings will be donated for the support of the ministry of GoodLife Beyond The Walls in our area and beyond.*

✠ **Regarding The Lord's Supper** ✠

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today as part of this Ascension Service. We welcome all Confirmed Members in one of our LCMS congregations in receiving our Lord's Body and Blood for the full forgiveness of sins. If you have questions about receiving the Sacrament today, please speak with one of the pastors before the service.

CONFESSION OF SINS:

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the Name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.*

ABSOLUTION:

P Your sins are forgiven! That's the promise Jesus gave us when He said,

C For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Amen.

SANCTUS: "This Is The Feast"

Refrain: *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *(Refrain)*
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His. *(Refrain)*

Sing with all the people of God, And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God, And the Lamb forever. Amen. *(Refrain)*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *(Refrain)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC:

"I am the Bread of Life" (Toolan)

Pastors' Choir (Congregation May Join In Singing Too!)

VERSE 1

I am the Bread of Life; He who comes to Me shall not hunger

He who believes in Me shall not thirst. No one can come to Me....unless the Father draw Him.

REFRAIN:

And I will raise...Him up. And I will raise Him up. And I will raise Him up on the last day.

VERSE 2

The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world,

And he who eats of this bread, He shall live for-ever, He shall live for-ever. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

And I will raise... Him up. And I will raise Him up. And I will raise Him up on the last day.

VERSE 3

Un-less you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man, And drink of His blood

And drink of His blood, You shall not have life with-in you. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

And I will raise... Him up. And I will raise Him up. And I will raise Him up on the last day.

VERSE 4

I am the Resurrection, I am the Life, He who believes in Me,

Even if he die, He shall live for-ever. (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

And I will raise... Him up. And I will raise Him up. And I will raise Him up on the last day.

VERSE 5

Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, The Son of God

Who has come into the world, Who has come into the world.

REFRAIN:

*And I will raise... Him up. And I will raise Him up. And I will raise Him up on the last day.
(Repeat Refrain)*

492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

- 1 On Christ's ascension I now build, The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled, All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well, I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.
- 2 Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in Him alone, No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
- 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully, In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

- 1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious; See the Man of Sorrows now!
From the fight returned victorious, Ev'ry knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crowns become the victor's brow. Crowns become the victor's brow.
- 2 Crown the Savior! Angels, crown Him! Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
On the seat of pow'r enthrone Him, While the vault of heaven rings.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crown the Savior King of kings. Crown the Savior King of kings.
- 3 Sinners in derision crowned Him, Mocking thus the Savior's claim;
Saints and angels crowd around Him, Own His title, praise His name.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Spread abroad the victor's fame. Spread abroad the victor's fame.
- 4 Hark, those bursts of acclamation! Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station; Oh, what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
King of kings and Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: "Rejoice, The Lord Is King!" (Tune LSB 921 "Darwell's 148th")

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, And triumph evermore.

Refrain: *Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, Rejoice!*

Our Savior Jesus reigns, The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above. (*Refrain*)

His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **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 T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Champion Of Love" (Congregation and GoodLife BTW Choir)

CHOIR: *He is higher than the highest, Greater than the great.
No one could ever take His crown away.*

*He's more mighty than the mightiest. He reigns from above. He's the all-time undisputed,
Undefeated Champion of Love, of Love, of Love!*

**ALL: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS, THE LAMB UPON HIS THRONE:
HARK! HOW THE HEAV'NLY 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.**

**CROWN HIM THE LORD OF LIFE: WHO TRIUMPHED O'ER THE GRAVE,
WHO ROSE VICTORIOUS I THE STRIFE, FOR THOSE HE CAME TO SAVE.**

**HIS GLORIES NOW WE SING, WHO DIED AND ROSE ON HIGH,
WHO DIED ETERNAL LIFE TO BRING, AND LIVES THAT DEATH MAY DIE.**

**CROWN HIM THE LORD OF HEAV'N: ONE WITH THE FATHER KNOWN,
ONE WITH THE SPIRIT THROUGH HIM GIV'N, FROM YONDER GLORIOUS THRONE.**

**TO THEE BE ENDLESS PRAISE, FOR THOU FOR US HAST DIED.
BE THOU, O LORD, THROUGH ENDLESS DAYS, ADORED AND MAGNIFIED!**

CHOIR: *Crown Him King! Crown Him Savior! Crown Him the Champion of Love,
of Love!*

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE:

Those who serve the ascended Christ this evening...

* **All worshippers joining us**

* **Preacher:** *Rev. Brandon Wittig, Pastor, Trinity, Sawyer*

* **Officiant:** *Rev. Jonathan Liebich, Pastor, Trinity, Glendora*

* **Organist:** *Mrs. Ann Barz, Organist, Trinity, Glendora*

* **Guitarist:** *Rev. Daniel Barz, Pastor, St. Paul, Buchanan*

* **Immanuel and GoodLife BTW Choirs:** *Sara Oldenburg, Pastor Thomas Fischer*

* **Audio/Visual:** *Bob Mann and Joe Trojan*