

SUNDAY MAY 24th, 2020
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD YEAR
A VIRTUAL BULLETIN
Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism... To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN – ELW 434 *Jesus Shall Reign*

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the risen Christ; the love of God; and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have 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 come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

² **For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**

³ who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴ **who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷ For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸ **God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the

immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ 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 age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 579 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

1 Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

Refrain

With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: *Refrain*

3 Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward, asking that the world around us share your children's liberty: *Refrain*

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive." Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give. May your care and mercy lead us to a just society: *Refrain*

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy." The assembly responds with "Hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

Spoken by the presiding minister.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,

All speak the words together.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord. Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presiding minister begins the prayer.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

WORD OF INSTITUTION

The presiding minister and the assembly speak the following words together.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (each plate of bread may be raised at this time), and gave thanks; broke it, and give it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me (bread plate may be lowered).

Again, after supper, he took the cup (cup of wine/grape juice may be raised at this time), gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me (cup of wine/grape juice may be lowered).

The presiding minister continues the Eucharistic prayer.

With this bread and cup...we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection...Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself...burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your holy ones...blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

*Either version may be said. The presiding minister introduces the prayer.
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...*

A time of silence for reflection.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All may commune themselves with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **"The body of Christ given for you."** Wine/grape juice: **"The blood of Christ shed for you."***

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All may pray the prayer together.

Let us pray. *Brief silence is kept.* **Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN – ELW 393 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 whom 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 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: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!