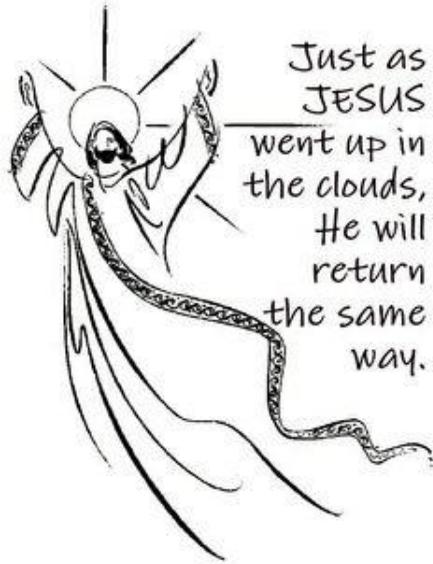


The Ascension of our Lord!



Just as
JESUS
went up in
the clouds,
He will
return
the same
way.

Almost forgotten and unfortunately ignored by many Christians and Christian denominations, is the Ascension of our Lord. 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead, we read in the Bible how Jesus visibly ascended from the disciples on Mt Olivet back into the heavenly realms.

We confess this belief each week in the creed. "And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father" (The Nicene Creed). He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (The Apostles' Creed).

The "right hand of God" is not a physical description as if Jesus is sitting on a throne or chair to the right of God the Father! Instead the phrase "the right hand of

God" is a way of describing the rule of Jesus. Jesus is now Lord of Heaven and earth. He [God the Father] has made Christ the head of everything for the good of the church (Ephesians 1:22, God's Word Translation).

As ruler of both heaven and earth, Jesus continues the ministry of interceding for us. That means, that Jesus continues the process of forgiving our sins, making us holy in the sight of God. As Lord of heaven and earth, Jesus hears our prayers and answers them according to His will and purpose.

Jesus' bodily Ascension foreshadows our own entrance in to Heaven not simply as souls or spirits, after our death. Instead we have the promise of receiving the glorified body, after the resurrection of the dead at the Final Judgment. Body and soul we will enjoy life with our Lord in Heaven!

Anointing Service – next Sunday!

We will have our monthly anointing service next Sunday, following the worship service.

The Ascension of our Lord



“The Third day He [Jesus] 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” (The Apostles' Creed).

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz, *Pastor*

Rev. Suah S. Deddeh, *Assistant Pastor of Welcoming & Outreach*

Roberto Vela, Esq., *Organist*

Welcome!

We thank God for this time together! If you are worshipping with us for the first time this morning, we extend a very special welcome to Holy Cross. We are happy and grateful that you have joined us to worship God and celebrate His love. Please be sure to fill out the attendance slip and receive our invitation to come worship with us again. May God bless your worship with us, and please be assured that your presence among us is a blessing.

Celebration of Communion

Lutherans believe that in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are received with the Bread and Wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Baptized Christians who confess their sins to God, desire to live a new life in Jesus Christ, and affirm this statement of faith, are invited to celebrate this Sacrament with us. If you have any questions regarding Communion, please speak with Pastor. We also invite children to come forward to receive a blessing.

As we prepare for worship . . .

Please use the time prior to the service for silent meditation and prayer.

Worship Guidelines

As a sign of respect to our Lord and to those around you, we ask that you follow these simple rules during worship:

- 1) Make certain your cell phone is silenced.
- 2) Once seated, please refrain from talking with those around. Voices travel!
- 3) Please try to minimize trips outside the sanctuary while the service is being conducted.
- 4) Please be courteous to those around you. Try to minimize distractions.

+ The Ascension of Our Lord +

May 13th, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

STAND

In acknowledgement of our Lord's presence and as a reminder of His work on our behalf, please turn and face the Processional Cross as it is carried in.

What is the Ascension?

- P At the beginning of history, God created the world. When our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin and death entered this world. At the appointed time, Christ came (Christmas) and died (Good Friday) for our sins. Three days later (Easter) He rose from the dead. Forty days later He ascended into Heaven (Ascension Sunday/Day). The Ascension of our Lord is more than a historical event in the life of our Lord. The Ascension proclaims and celebrates Christ's triumphant return to Heaven where today He rules both Heaven and earth. As ruler, Jesus listens to our prayers and responds according to His divine will and purpose. As ruler, Jesus is now making final preparations for our homecoming where we will live with Him in peace and joy forever!

Ascension Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Pew Bible, p. 810

During the reading of the lesson, the Easter Candle will be extinguished and carried out of the sanctuary to signify Jesus' ascension into heaven.

After the reading:

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P God has gone up with a shout:

C The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

821

Invocation & Confession

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You, Father, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.

P As a called and ordained servant of the word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive the sins of all of you who repent and believe, in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Introit *(spoken by pastor)*

It is Christ Jesus, Who died, yes, Who was raised, Who is at the right hand of God,
Who indeed intercedes for us (Romans 8:34).

Hymn of Praise *Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious* # 495 v 1

**Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious: See the Man of Sorrows now!
From the fight returned victorious, Eve'ry knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Him!
Crowns become the victor's brow. Crowns become the victor's brow.**

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, we believe in Your Son, our Lord, Who ascended into heaven. Lead us also to ascend there in heart and mind, and take us to live with Him forever. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Announcements

First Lesson

Ezekiel 36:22-28

Pew Bible, p. 647-8

Psalm 47 *(select verses)*

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.

P For God is the King of all the earth;
C sing to Him a psalm of praise.

P God reigns over the nations;
C God is seated on His holy throne.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:15-22

Pew Bible, p. 901

Alleluia Verse *(spoken by pastor)*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
For your Lord reigns forever and ever! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

Pew Bible, p. 743

Message

STAND

The Nicene Creed *(Please see inside back cover of hymnal)*

Gathering of Offerings

Ascension Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who at His Ascension, seated Him at the right hand of power and glory in the heavens. *(Pause)* O God, Creator of the world, Who blesses us in every way and provides for our daily need:

C Have mercy and hear us.

P O God, Redeemer of the world, Who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead to sit at Your right hand in glory so that we might have an advocate in Heaven:

C Have mercy and hear us.

P O God, Sanctifier of the world, Who sends the Holy Spirit that we might be made holy in faith and through the remembrance of all that our Ascended Lord has taught us:

C Have mercy and hear us.

P Holy Trinity, One God:

C Give ear to our prayers and supplications.

p For Your only Son, Who lived and died that we might have eternal life with You:

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

p For His glorious resurrection and the proclamation of the Gospel of His holy Name:

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

p For His Ascension into Heaven where You have placed all things in Heaven and on earth under His dominion:

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

p For His promise that He has gone to prepare a place for us:

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

p For the promise of the angels that He will return in the same way that we saw Him go into Heaven:

C We give You thanks, O Lord.

P Baptized into His Name, we are Your humble servants, O God.

C Hearken to the words of our petitions:

p That we who are raised with Christ may set our hearts on things above, not on things below.

C Conform us to Christ.

p That we might be filled with the promised Holy Spirit and inspired to proclaim Christ's Resurrection and Ascension in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

C Conform us to Christ.

p That, keeping His commandments, we might abide in Him and He in us.

C Conform us to Christ.

p That we might be found faithful and blameless through repentance and the forgiveness of sins when He returns in glory.

C Conform us to Christ.

p That, at the last, we may stand around His heavenly throne and sing His eternal praises with all the angelic host;

C Conform us to Christ.

p Let all Your angels worship Him, O God.

C Bend every knee in Heaven and on earth at the sound of His holy Name.

Special Prayers

John & Marty [Martha] Pichel (John is the brother of Bill Pichel and is undergoing chemotherapy treatment) - Heather Huff (daughter of Allen, at home recovering from surgery) - Theresa Wilcox; Elissa Simmons (friend of Susan Lucero); Marjorie Harcourt, (aunt of Jim Ittenbach, Multiple Myeloma.) - Ruthann Souders, (friend of Susan Lucero) - lung cancer. - Lucille Keys - Emmanuel French, (nephew of Dawn Felix) - Robert Coleman, (friend of Eileen Farnham) - lymphoma;
Birthdays: Robert Day (5/17)

P Almighty God, all Your works are glorious. But none is more glorious than the work of Your Son, our Ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. As You raised Him from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in power, so keep us ever close to His Resurrection and Ascension, that we too might be raised and seated with Him in Your heavenly kingdom; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Communion Liturgy

P Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. If you love Me, rejoice because I am going to the Father." Alleluia (John 14:27,28). The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And with you, His servant.

Proper Preface

P It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, He came to save our human race. Dying

for us, He defeated sin, death and the devil. By the glory of His resurrection He defeated death and opened the way to life eternal, and now by His Ascension, He has given us the sure hope that where He is we may also be. Therefore the whole universe joys with all the company of heaven singing:

Hymn *At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing* # 633 v. 1.

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Consecration

P Looking for the coming of His kingdom, as our Savior taught us, so we pray

The Lord's Prayer

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* # 621 v 2

**King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn of Praise *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee* # 632 v. 1

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast lovingly bestowed on me
Thy body and Thy blood.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(after communion)*

P Let us pray:

C **We thank You, Lord God, that You have fed us with the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ. United with Him, we now have been given a foretaste of the banquet that awaits us in heaven. Grant us Your peace now and always. Amen.**

Benediction

P The almighty God, Father (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

I'm But a Stranger Here

748

Please turn and face the Processional Cross as it is carried out.

Dismissal

P Like the disciples, we yearn for the presence of the Lord among us. Even though we didn't travel with Him for three years, we desire to be close to Him, to sit at His feet and learn from Him, to savor His gentle words and loving touch. That day will come when we see Him – physically – face to face. Until then, we find comfort in the words of the angels who tell us, *“This same Jesus that has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way.”* And until then, we see Him in His Word, in the touch and comfort of one another here in His Body, the Church, and in the celebration of Holy Communion. May you experience the presence of the Ascended Lord in this life and see Your Lord face to face in the world to come. Amen!

Postlude

To God Alone Be the Glory!

Serving in Worship

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Mentz, *Pastor* **Assistant Minister:** Rev. Suah S. Deddeh

Organist: Roberto Vela, Esq. **Communion Assistant:** Obaro Sowho

Altar Guild: Susan Lucero (*Saturday*); Silva Emmanuel (*Sunday*)

Counters: Dawn Felix & Allen Clem **Greeter:** Pam Brown

Lector: Emmanuel Findlay **Ushers:** Warren Winker & Cherub Emmanuel

To the Glory of God

Altar Flowers were given by *Pat Carriere* in memory of her mom, Lael Carriere.

The Sanctuary Light was given by *Susan Cannon* in memory of her mom, Louise Bastian.

Mother's Day

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. – Exodus 20:12 (New King James Version)

Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? – Isaiah 49:15 (New Living Translation)

My child, obey your father's godly instruction and follow your mother's life-giving teaching. Fill your heart with their advice and let your life be shaped by what they've taught you. Their wisdom will guide you wherever you go and keep you from bringing harm to yourself. Their instruction will whisper to you at every sunrise and direct you through a brand new day. – Proverbs 6:20-22 (The Passion Translation)

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you. – Isaiah 66:13 (ESV)

Scripture Readings for Pentecost Sunday, May 20th

Acts 2:1-21 Genesis 11:1-9 1 Corinthians 12:3-7 John 16:5-16