

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 29, 2014



THE PURPOSE OF
CHRIST'S
ASCENSION AND
KINGDOM IS TO
TAKE SIN
CAPTIVE, SO
THAT ETERNAL
DEATH MIGHT
NOT TAKE US
CAPTIVE AND
HOLD US THERE.

-MARTIN LUTHER

ASCENSION DAY SERMON 1534

OUR WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Welcome to Our Savior Lutheran Church! We are happy that you are able to worship with us this evening. In our service this evening, we will be celebrating the Festival of the Ascension of our Lord. Christ's ascension to the right hand of God presents us with the comfort of his continuing rule over all things and our call to be his witnesses throughout the world.

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

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

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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~ **Prayer of the Church—The Ascension of our Lord**, adapted from *LetUsPray*: <http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=907>.

INVOCATION

~PLEASE STAND

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

C Oh, come, let us worship Him. Alleluia!

The congregation joins in singing verses 1-3 of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels
2 Hail him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid
3 Sin - ners whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood
4 Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe On this ter -
5 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at his



pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And
Lord did call, The God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, And
and the gall, Go, spread your tro - phies at his feet And
res - trial ball To him all maj - es - ty as - crite And
feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And



crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the roy - al
crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate,
crown him Lord of all. Go, spread your tro - phies
crown him Lord of all. To him all maj - es -
crown him Lord of all. We'll join the ev - er -



di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.
at his feet And crown him Lord of all.
ty as - crite And crown him Lord of all.
last - ing song And crown him Lord of all.

L Alleluia! Christ reigns as King, seated at the right hand of God. All His enemies He has placed under His feet.

C Alleluia. Christ says, "I am with You always to the end of the age."

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

C Alleluia. Let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

L The Lord is at His right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His wrath.

C Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The congregation joins in singing verses 4-5 of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

CONFESSION OF SINS

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C O Lord, who could stand?

L But with You there is forgiveness;

C therefore You are feared.

Psalm 130:3-4

L Holy and merciful Father,

C I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

L God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

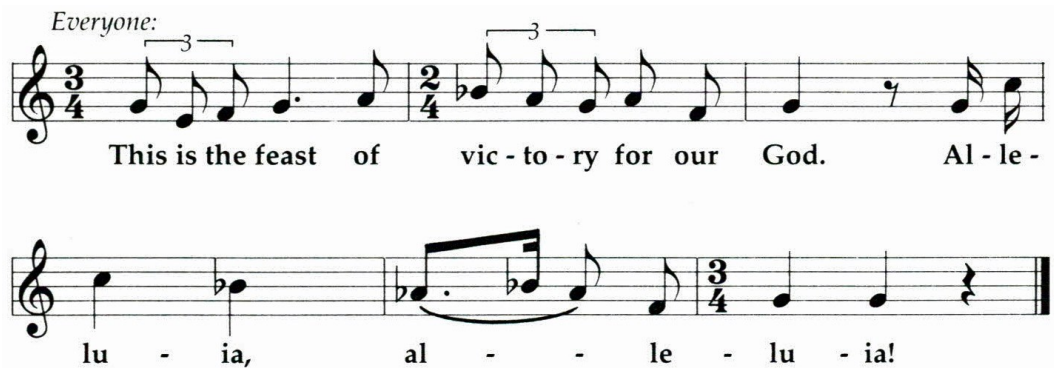
C Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

THIS IS THE FEAST ~ *DIGNUS EST AGNUS*

The congregation joins the choir to sing the refrain.



The choir sings the verses of the canticle.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood sets 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: **Refrain***

*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***

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 1:1-11

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

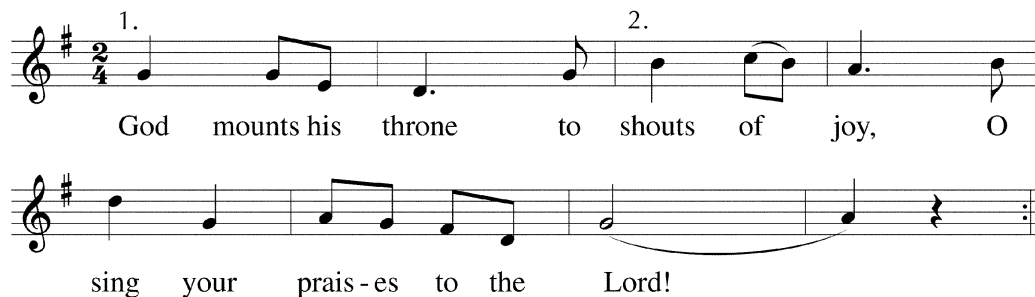
⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They 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."



PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 47

Ostinato Refrain*



Verses

1. All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God in gladness, the Lord we must fear, king of all the earth.
2. God goes up to shouts of joy, sound the trumpet blast. Sing praise to our God, praise unto our king!
3. God is king of all the earth, sing with all your skill to the king of all nations, God enthroned on high!

**May be sung in canon.*

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:16-23

¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸I 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, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far 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. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



VERSE OF THE DAY: MATTHEW 28:20

REFRAIN



C REFRAIN.

L Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia.

C REFRAIN.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53

~PLEASE STAND

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.



NICENE CREED

☩ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN: #173 ON CHRIST'S ASCENSION I NOW BUILD

SERMON:

~PLEASE STAND

After the sermon, the congregation responds by singing:



Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~PLEASE STAND

Each petition of the prayer of the church concludes...

L ...let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

L It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.

There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.

THANKSGIVING

NUNC DIMITTIS

~PLEASE STAND

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to

as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en - light - en
ev - er three in one; For as in the be - gin - ning,

All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing
Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

L O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C And his mercy endures forever.

L O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy---

C **to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!**

Jude 24, 25

L 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.

C Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN: #171 A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING

VERSES 1, 5-6

Both the Prayer of the Day and this hymn were written by the Venerable Bede, 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.

