

the FESTIVAL of



the ASCENSION of our
LORD

Huntersville Lutheran | 05.17.26



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

8000 McIlwaine Rd Huntersville, NC 28078

Worship @ 9:00am | Family Bible Hour @ 10:30 am

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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength through God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the gathering space, to the left of the kitchen. There is also a family restroom located in the classroom

Cry Room: If your little one needs some room to move around, head to the back of the sanctuary and you'll find a cry room. You can also go into the Classroom off the gathering space if you need more space.

Service Participants

Rev. Douglas Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*

Mrs. Andrea Van Sice, *pianist*

Service Notes

~The Ascension of Our Lord ~

Forty days ago, the darkness of Lent was dispelled by the light of Easter. For forty days, the church has cried, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" But forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he departed from his disciples and was enthroned in glory in heaven. From heaven he rules all things as our Lord and King.

The celebration of the Ascension has roots that go back to the earliest days of the Christian Church. St. Augustine, writing in the fifth century, says that this festival has her origins with the Apostles. He speaks of it in a way that shows it was celebrated long before his time.

In the early 700s AD, there lived an English churchman known to history as the Venerable Bede. He was the great teacher of the middle ages, the man who divided history into AD and BC, the first great historian of the English language, and a devout man of God. On May 25, 735 AD, on the great Ascension Vigil, Bede finished his translation of the Gospel of St. John into Old English. Then, on that day of Ascension, he died. From his deathbed, the Teacher of the Middle Ages spoke the words that have become the Prayer of the Day on Ascension. This beautiful prayer sets the tone for the day, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and his work. He is also the author of the hymn of the day we will sing today, *A Hymn of Glory Now We Sing*.

Today we celebrate the day Jesus ascended (went up) to glory. But he promised not to leave his disciples alone. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. They waited ten more days, and then on the Festival of Pentecost they saw Jesus' promise made good. Next Sunday we will celebrate that fiftieth day, the day of Pentecost.

Prayer Upon Entering Worship

Great God of heaven and earth, as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us up to heaven, so today we recall his departing from us at Jerusalem, taking his rightful place as King of kings and Lord of lords. Though he is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in him by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.

At the invitation of the pastor, please stand and face the entrance of the sanctuary. During the singing of the hymn, follow the cross to the chancel as it is put in place.

Stand.

Call to Worship

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed!

L Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

L How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C He has set his glory above the heavens.

L For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C He is exalted far above all gods.

L Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy.

C God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

L Let us sing praises to our God and King.

Processional Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Christian Worship #512, vv1-4



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God who from his al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Ye Gen - tile sin - ners, ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall;



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro-phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro-phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

L "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 go into heaven."

C **We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**

L God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far 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. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

C **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. Amen.**

L Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

C **When Christ, who is your life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory.**

5 Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
6 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all.

To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Be seated



THE WORD

During the Sundays of Easter, the First Reading is going to look different. Typically, the First Reading is from the Old Testament. Through the 50 Days of Easter, the Old Testament reading is replaced with a reading from the Acts of the Apostles. This is to show how the message of the resurrection was the spark that ignited the growth and spread of the early Christian church.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-17

¹In 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 presented himself to them 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."

⁶Then they gathered around him and 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."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47

- Clap your hands, all you nations;
- shout to God with cries of joy.**
- For the LORD Most High is awesome,
- the great King over all the earth.**
- God reigns over the nations;
- God is seated on his holy throne.**
- God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
- the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.**
- Sing praises to God, sing praises;
- sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
- For God is the King of all the earth;
- sing to him a psalm of praise.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 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 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 his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ 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 name that is invoked, 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.

- The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Christ Begins
Christian Worship #385, vv. 1, 3-4

1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
3 See the sun out-shined on the hill and hide.
4 We stand, gath-ered round on the moun-tain-side.

Wa-ter runs and all heav-en
Clothes like light-ning white, heav-en
Watch the clos-ing clouds hide him

o-pens wide, and a voice like thun-der re-plies.
o-pens wide, and a voice like thun-der re-plies.
from our eyes; with a voice u-nit-ed we cry:

Refrain

Here's my Proph-et, my Priest, my King, a

light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav-ior, my

God, my King, the time has come, Christ be-gins.

⁴⁴He 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.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I 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.”

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Recession of the Paschal Candle

After the reading of the Gospel, the Paschal Candle is removed from the chancel and recessed through the sanctuary.

The Paschal Candle is an enduring symbol of Jesus' resurrection. The light of the candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, and he has defeated the darkness of sin, death, and evil. A candle like this has been used since the earliest days of the Christian Church. During the fourth century, a practice developed of lighting the paschal candle at the Easter vigil and keeping it lighted throughout the next 40 days. We have continued that practice handed down to us. During the last 40 days, the Paschal Candle sat next to the ambo and was continuously lighted—a reminder of the resurrected Jesus—the Word Made Flesh—presence among us.

On Ascension, the Paschal Candle is removed as a symbol of what happened when Jesus ascended. At his ascension, Jesus removed his visible presence from his disciples. He was enthroned at the right hand of God and now fills all things in every way for his church (Ephesians 1:23).

When you return to worship next week, the Paschal Candle will be next to the baptismal font. It is lighted at every baptism and funeral to show the connection between Jesus' death and resurrection and the promises that are conferred therein.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Christian Worship #472



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -
"This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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!

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!

Sermon

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Ascension: About Jesus + About Us

Personal Sermon Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for taking personal sermon notes. It occupies the central portion of the page, below the title and above the footer.

Confession of Faith

This confession of faith is based on the second article of the Apostles' Creed and the explanation found in Luther's Large Catechism.

- L** If now you are asked, "What do you believe in the Second Article of Jesus Christ?" answer briefly:
 - C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord. But what is it to become Lord? It is this, that He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and all evil. For before I had no Lord nor King, but was captive under the power of the devil, condemned to death, entangled in sin and blindness.**
 - L** There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God in His unfathomable goodness had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness, and came from heaven to help us. Those tyrants and jailers, then, are all expelled now, and in their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation.
 - C** **He has delivered us poor lost creatures from the jaws of hell, has won us, made us free, and brought us again into the favor and grace of the Father, and has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection, that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.**
 - L** Let this then be the summary of this article: that this little word Lord simply means Jesus became my redeemer.
 - C** **He suffered, died and was buried, that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe, not with silver nor gold, but with His own precious blood. All this he did to become my Lord. After And after that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father's right hand, so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet, until finally, at the last day, He will completely part and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.**
 - L** The entire Gospel which we preach is based on this, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rest, and which is so rich and comprehensive that we never can learn it fully.
 - C** **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

When the leader says, "...Lord in your mercy..." the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

Offering | *The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, simply scan the QR code or click on the "Give" tab in HLC's app. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.*



Connect Card | *In your service folder, you will find connect cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. You may also request prayers be said on your behalf. Please place the connect card in the offering plates as they are passed around.*



THE SACRAMENT

Huntersville Lutheran practices close communion, which means biblical conversation and confession with our church beforehand. It is our desire to share in the eternal blessings of this Sacrament according to the instructions that God himself gives. If you are new to Huntersville Lutheran, please know that many of those around you were at one time new, too. And, as you can see by their presence, this preliminary discussion has only brought us closer together to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way he has prescribed. Contact our pastor at any time.

EXHORTATION

- ☐ Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather to celebrate the Testament of our Lord, let us take to heart the words of Christ by which he imparted to us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Let us remember and give thanks for his boundless love, which he proved to us when he redeemed us from God's wrath, from sin, death, and from hell by his own precious blood.

Let us faithfully confess that in this bread and wine—which are his body and blood—we receive the pledge and guarantee of his forgiveness.

Let us receive and enjoy this Sacrament according to the command that Christ gave, and glorify the name of the one who has so richly blessed us with this meal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- ☐ 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- ☐ **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Christian Worship #675



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, hell's fierce



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
pow'rs be - neath you lie. You have con - quered in the fight,



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
you have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!

Be seated

Distribution

Stand

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C **his mercy endures forever.**

L Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

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.**

Blessing

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.**

Song of Departure

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Christian Worship #476



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build the hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, re - call - ing your as -



cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled all doubt and ap - pre -
tain - ing, my heart will rest in him a - lone, no oth - er rest re -
cen - sion, that I may serve you faith - ful - ly, in thanks for my re -



hen - sion, for where the head is, there as well I know his
main - ing, for where my trea - sure went be - fore, there all my
demp - tion; and then, when all my days will cease, let me de -



mem - bers are to dwell when Christ shall come and call them.
thoughts will ev - er soar to still their deep - est yearn - ing.
part in joy and peace in an - swer to my plead - ing.

Acknowledgments

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Setting Two from Christian Worship

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