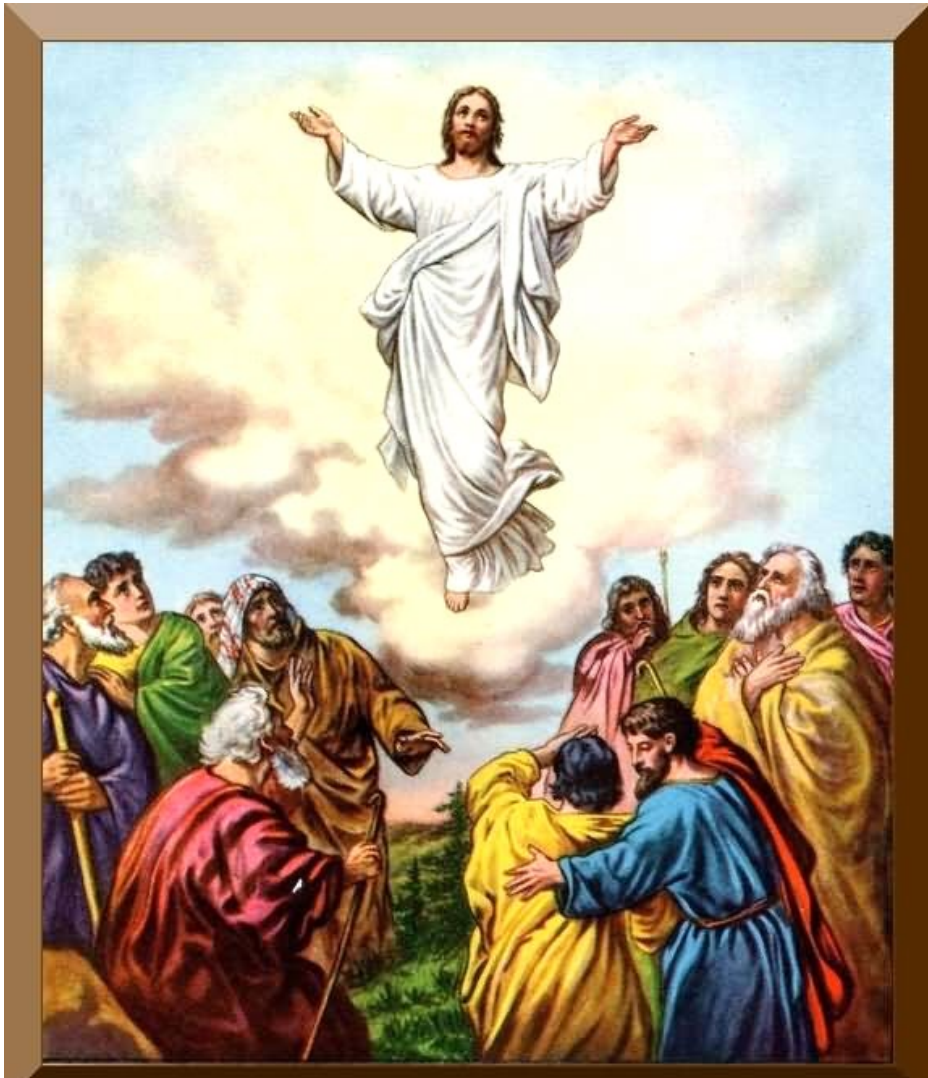


# ASCENSION



**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**Juneau            Salem-Lowell            Horicon**

# WELCOME

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We are glad you have joined us to celebrate our Ascended Lord! May God bless your worship today!

- ∞ **Ushers:** Please ask our ushers for assistant if there is anything you need during our service tonight.
- ∞ **Restrooms:** We have numerous facilities. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- ∞ **Infants Room:** If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of a cry-room, you will find two rooms available off of the narthex.

## PERSONAL PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.



# Ascension

May 18, 2023

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## OPENING HYMN 474

*Please stand for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> verses.*

**“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## ASCENSION DIALOGUE

*The minister's statements are from Jesus' words in John 13-16 (NIV).*

*The congregation's statements are from Psalm 47 (NIV).*

I am going away and I am coming back to you.

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

In my Father's house are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.

**How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!**

I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

**Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

**God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, you have 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.**

## *BE SEATED*

### LESSON

**Acts 1:1-11 (NIV)**

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

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## LESSON

**Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I 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. <sup>18</sup> I 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, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far 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. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## SPECIAL ANTHEM

**"You Will Be My Witnesses"**

*St. John's Choir and Zion's Choir*

*STAND*

## LESSON

**Luke 24:44-53 (NIV)**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus] said to [his disciples], "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."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

<sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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."

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

*BE SEATED*

**HYMN OF THE DAY 476**

**“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”**

**SERMON**

*STAND*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*Luther’s Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed from the Small Catechism*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**

*STAND*

**OFFERING HYMN 752 v.1**

**“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father’s majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

**We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**

O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

**Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**

O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

**Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

**You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

**Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

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.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**CLOSING HYMN 472**

**"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"**

Preacher: Pastor Steven Mischke, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Oak Grove  
Liturgist: Pastor Tim Schwartz, Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus  
Pastor David Brandt, St. John's Lutheran Church, Juneau  
Organist: Ruth Affeld  
Choirs: St. John's Adult Choir and Zion's Adult Choir

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A special Thank You to Pastor Steven Mischke from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Oak Grove (outside of Juneau) for leading our worship this evening. May God bless your ministry in Oak Grove!

Also, a special Thank You to our choirs for edifying our service tonight. Your preparation and willingness to serve this evening are greatly appreciated. 😊

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Ice Cream Sundaes! (If you would like to use the elevator to get to the lower level, please ask an usher for assistance.)



United in Christ Sunday: For one special Sunday, all our campuses are invited to worship together in one service. This special service will take place this Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM at our Juneau Campus. This service will have a special message, choirs, and music. Whether you attend the Horicon Campus, our Salem-Lowell Campus, or our



Juneau Campus, please join us for this one service where we will praise our Lord together! Brunch will be served following the service with fun and games. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex if you are interested in bringing a dish to share. *(This means that there is no service at our Horicon Campus on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, no service at our Salem-Lowell Campus on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and no additional Sunday service in Juneau.)*