

resurrection **REALity**

***Christ's Ascension Means He Is
Closer Than Ever***

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, May 12, 2024

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), 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. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Current Worship Series: Easter Reality

Easter Sunday: *Easter is of First Importance*

April 7: *The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace*

April 14: *We Have a Meaningful Message to Share*

April 21: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

April 28: *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*

May 5: *The Living Lord Produces Active Faith*

May 12: *Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

May 19: *We Will Overcome This Broken World*

Today's Focus: *Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

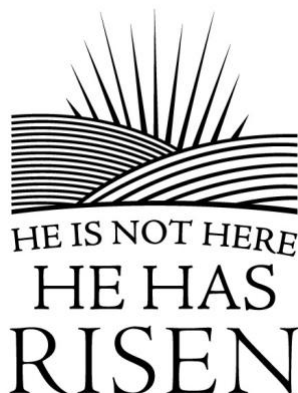
Conventional wisdom would say if Christ has ascended into heaven, he is further away from his followers than when he was visibly on earth. The resurrection reality is that it is the other way around. Now that Christ has ascended, he is closer than ever. The living and ascended Savior has reassumed full use of all his divine power. So if you need Christ's help, you don't need to hunt for him in Galilee. You call to him in prayer, wherever you are, whenever you want, and he hears and acts. You want to hear Jesus speak? You don't need to chase him down. Open his Word and listen to his powerful, life-giving voice.

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. Therefore, the Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



Each Sunday, the *Today's Focus* is based on the three readings in the middle of the service. We do not base our worship themes on clever ideas or interesting topics but on the word of God found in the readings that Christians have been using in worship for thousands of years.

It may be helpful for the worshipper to read the three readings prior to the service. As you do, notice how all three readings are tied together under the common theme that serves as *Today's Focus*.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Ascension - The Seventh Sunday After Easter

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2
friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
they preached the truth and pow'r of grace
and pouring out their lives they gained
life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave
now works in us to pow'rf'ly save.
He frees our hearts to live his grace;
go, tell of his goodness. (Refrain)

Text: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Ed Cash, b. 1971; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Ascension Dialogue

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!
He has set his glory above the heavens.

For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.
He is exalted far above all gods.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.
God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.
He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

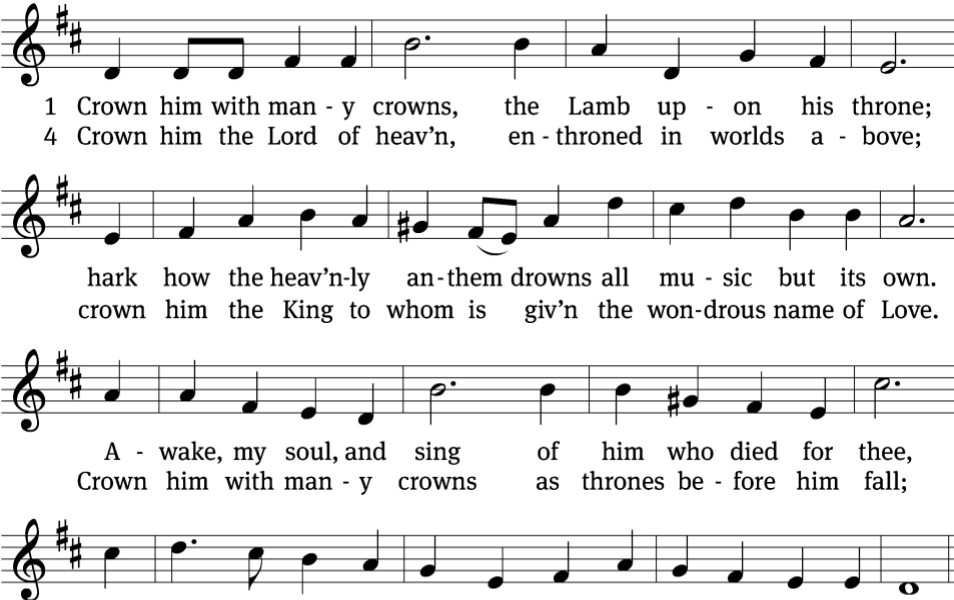
The name of
the triune God
and the sign
of the cross
remind
worshippers of
their
baptisms.

The throne of our God will last forever and ever.
A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.
His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns sts. 1, 4



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, en - throned in worlds a - bove;

hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
crown him the King to whom is giv'n the won - drous name of Love.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
Crown him with man - y crowns as thrones be - fore him fall;

and hail him as thy match-less King thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.
crown him, ye kings, with man - y crowns for he is King of all.

The Prayer of the Day often summarizes the key themes that will be found in the readings on the following pages.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18



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.”

Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:16-17

Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

After a brief introduction, the congregation joins in singing the refrains.

Refrain



Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20

Refrain



Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

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.

For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken “Alleluia!” and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.


The risen Savior ascended, and his disciples responded with joyful worship.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn


A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



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!

Sermon

Ephesians 4:7-16

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Apostle's Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

Kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The Pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join in the Lord's prayer.

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 T give you peace.
Amen.

Please be seated

Hymn

Across the Lands



1 You're the Word of God the Fa - ther from be - fore the
2 Yet you left the gaze of an - gels, came to seek and
3 With a shout you rose vic - to - rious, wrest - ing vic - t'ry



world be - gan. Ev - 'ry star and ev - 'ry plan - et has been
save the lost, and ex - changed the joy of heav - en for the
from the grave, and as - cend - ed in - to heav - en, lead - ing



fash - ioned by your hand. All cre - a - tion holds to -
an - guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the
cap - tives in your way. Now you stand be - fore the



geth - er by the pow - er of your voice. Let the skies de -
hun - gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si - lent -
Fa - ther, in - ter - ced - ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo - ry, let the land and seas re - jice!
ly you suf - fered that the guilt - y may go free!
tongue and na - tion you are lead - ing sin - ners home!

Refrain



You're the au - thor of cre - a - tion, you're the Lord of ev - 'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a - cross the lands.

Announcements

Foundations of Faith

Foundations is for everyone: people interested in becoming members, those looking to build their faith, or the curious observer who wants to study the Bible without feeling obligated to join a church. This study is Bible-based and discussion-centered. Classes can be arranged to fit personal schedules.

To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org). Childcare is available upon request.



Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.

New Sunday Bible Study – Growing in Grace and Knowledge

The goal of this study is two-fold. First of all, “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” will hopefully help you to grow in your understanding of Christian living by looking at a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life. The first topic is **Christian Living** itself. The subsequent topics are: **Prayer, Worship, Church, Stewardship, family, The World, and Evangelism.**

The second goal of “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” is to make you more comfortable with personal Bible study. Each topic contains five lessons, for a total of forty. Each lesson consists of a portion of Scripture that you will look up during the week leading up to Sunday. You will be answering questions, underlining Bible verses, and even making notes in your Bible. Hopefully, over the course of the forty lessons you will become more comfortable with the process of studying Scripture.

Hear are my promises to you as you consider coming to Sunday Bible study.

- I will work extremely hard to make sure you feel comfortable.
- I will gently push you to grow in grace and knowledge by making Bible studies relevant, timely, and interesting.
- You are not expected to know anything at all.
- There truly is no such thing as a bad question so I will never make fun of anything anyone says.
- I never call on anyone to read.
- I will never call on anyone to answer in front of the group unless they want to.
- My goal is for you to relax and be fed by God's word.
- I am going to have a blast!
- There will be coffee!

Acknowledgments

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Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.

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