

The Ascension of Our Lord, May 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Hymns: 493, 477, 525, 830, 821, 492; Liturgy: 152, 161, 163

This Ending Is a New Beginning



While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

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

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

al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall

trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -

God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

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

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Invocation, Confession and Absolution

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
P *(After silence for reflection and examination...)* Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.**
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Introit *Psalm 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5*

- P** God has gone up with a shout,
C **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**
P The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,
C **until I make your enemies your footstool.”**
P The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,
C **“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”**
P The Lord is at your right hand;
C **he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P God has gone up with a shout,
C **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

Kyrie *LSB 152*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - men.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray... Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Ephesians 1:15-23*

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse *Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b*

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *Luke 24:44-53*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:

2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:

△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



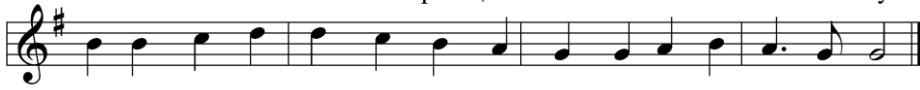
Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;

See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;

Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Prayer of the Church

P Risen, ascended, and glorified Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant us grace that we may recognize Your presence in Word and Sacrament and receive there the fruits of Your redeeming work until You come again to deliver us into Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sustain Your church, O Lord, that she may be faithful in all that You have given her to do and be kept in unity of doctrine and life through the days of trial until at last the church in heaven and the church on earth are one in Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Order all things on earth by Your Word that those entrusted with the leadership of the nations may fulfill Your purpose in the pursuit of peace, justice, and godliness on behalf of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Supply to the sick and those who suffer the grace to sustain them in the day of their trouble and give comfort to the dying and those who mourn... Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P By Your Spirit bring us to repentance and to faith in Your Word and promise, that we may approach Your altar with confidence and receive for our benefit Your body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Help us by Your grace to lead a holy and godly life, worthy of our calling as Your own people by Baptism and faith, and help us to give witness to the hope that is within us before a world in darkness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we bring with our lips and the tithes and offerings of our hands as the worship acceptable in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Having in remembrance all those who have loved Your appearing and who now rest in Your mercy, we pray for that day when we shall join with them in the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom without end.

C **Glory, honor, blessing, and praise to You, O risen and ascended Lord. Amen.**

Offering

Preface & Proper Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** O Almighty and eternal God, You are worthy to be held in reverence by all people and You have well supplied Your whole creation with all the blessings of life and health. But most of all we praise You for Your gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ. Through His Word and Sacraments He continues to bestow upon us, Your people, the blessings of His cross and empty tomb—though we neither deserve nor are worthy of His gifts. Grant us the faith to receive with faith and a joyful heart the gift of His flesh and blood in this Holy Communion.
- C** **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

C 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 peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

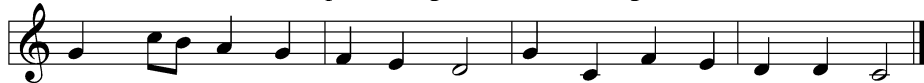
525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 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.
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri-fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
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, And
Fruit of the mys-tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown
hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
 3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
 4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
 How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
 And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
 Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
 But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
 Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.

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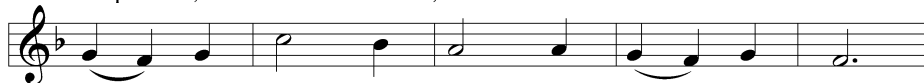
821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



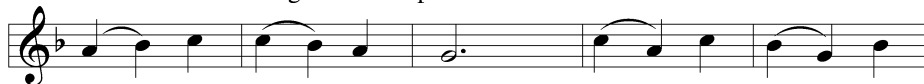
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
 scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
 tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
 Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
 like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.; Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87; Text and tune: Public domain.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray... Heavenly, holy, mighty Lord, as once You ascended in glory having accomplished all things for us and our salvation, grant to us Your Holy Spirit and grace from above that we may recognize Your presence among us through Your Word and Supper and rejoice to receive through these means of grace forgiveness, life, and salvation to possess by faith until we own these eternally on high; whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build



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
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

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