



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Where tradition and inclusivity meet.

Divine Worship

Easter VII

May 24, 2020

The Festival of the Ascension - *(transferred)*



Introduction

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Welcome and Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we may love our
neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above
all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that,
as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of
the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words
provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did
and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to
heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles
whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them
by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and
speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered
them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.
"This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with

water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm: Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

1Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

**2For the Lord Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

3who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

**4who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**

5God has gone up | with a shout,
the Lord with the sound | of the ram’s horn.

**6Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R**

7For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

**8God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

9The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. **R**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

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

Meditation

Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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Prayers of Intercession

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

John Weakland (Brian Weakland's Father)

Zoia "Charlie" Foster (Pastor's niece)

Al Wenzel (Friend of Oberndorf family, Hospitalized with Covid19)

The Family of Sean Gustwiller (Friends of Courtney Kochuba)

The Family of Charles Powers (Friends of the Meusel family who died from Covid19)

The Family of Richard Altomare

Funeral Services done by our congregation for the community because of Covid 19 crisis:

The Family of Barbara Wolfshorndl

The Family of Rosa Reyes

The Family of Florence Dombrowsky

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community (*especially*). Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression and violence rule no more. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gentle God, you guide us as we seek wisdom. We pray for teachers, professors, theologians, day care workers, and all those charged with teaching the young and old. Give them endurance and persistence in their valuable work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Infinite God, your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed (*especially Helena, mother of Constantine*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.