

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 21, 2020



“While he blessed them, he parted from them
and was carried up into heaven.”

Luke 24:51

The Ascension of Our Lord

21 May A+D 2020

Welcome in Jesus' name to our guests this holy day. We pray God's richest blessings to you as we hear His Word and receive His gifts. If you're visiting for the first time, please sign our guestbook in the narthex.

Worship at St. Paul's is conducted according to the historic, liturgical worship patterns of the Christian Church throughout the ages. The rhythm of worship is from our God to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them.

The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday of the month. St. Paul's observes the biblical practice of close communion. Members of sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to commune with us. *We ask visitors who are not members of the LC-MS to speak with one of our pastors if you are interested in learning more about our church and communion practices.*

Ascension: The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

"His Ascension into Heaven.

Jesus Is Ascended, but Not Absent

On the fortieth day after His resurrection, our Lord ascended to the right hand of the Father. But although Jesus is hidden from your eyes, He is not absent from you. For He now fills all things in heaven and on earth. He continues "to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1), preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins through those sent in His name (Mark 16:14–20; Luke 24:44–53), giving you His true body and blood in the Supper. Jesus is your great Elijah who pours out on you a double portion of His Spirit in the Word and the Sacraments (2 Kings 2:5–15). He is Lord over all things for the sake of the Church. He whom heaven cannot contain has raised your human nature to share fully in the glory of God. You who believe and are baptized into Christ's body are already sitting in the heavenly places; for you are in Him who is at the Father's right hand. When He comes again in the clouds on the Last Day, you also will appear with Him in glory.

Service notes: The Sherrill Family Kantorei will be providing music this evening. Trumpet music provided by John Timm and Pastor Frank. Rev. Jay Wheeler will be the preacher this evening.

Opening Prayer: O Lord, our God, as we come before You to worship You in spirit and truth, we ask You to open our hearts to the ministry of Your Word. Lead us to truly repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Divine Service

Setting One

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on Lasst uns erfreuen (LSB #493: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing").....Thomas Pavlechko

493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

LSB 493 (Kantorei Stanza 4)



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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Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- 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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
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.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 47:1–2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11

Men of | Galilee,*
why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.
This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.
Clap your hands, all | peoples!*
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.
God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
God reigns over the | nations,*
God sits on his | holy throne.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Men of | Galilee,*
why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.
This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

Kyrie

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P 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 mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

- C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect 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.**

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

LSB 494 (Kantorei)

Second 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

LSB 457 sts. 1–3



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Holy Gospel

Gospel

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then he 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.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

LSB 492



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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Sermon

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering ~ "God the Father, Be Our Stay".....Allan Mahnke
(Offerings go to the Council Bluffs Circuit fund for Outreach and Education)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
G **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
G **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
G **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

- G** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
G **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- G** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

LSB 821



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 -



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



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.



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



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



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.

- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
 His the scepter, His the throne;
 Alleluia! His the triumph,
 His the victory alone.
 Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
 Thunder like a mighty flood:
 "Jesus out of ev'ry nation
 Has redeemed us by His blood."

482 This Joyful Eastertide

LSB 482



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

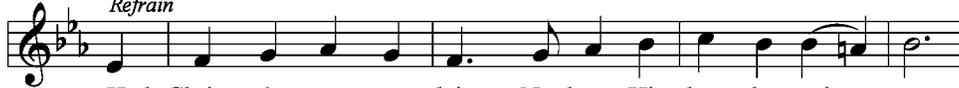


sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

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Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

- ☑ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction

LSB 166





1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; See the Man of
 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown Him! Rich the tro - phies
 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned Him, Mock - ing thus the
 4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud tri -



Sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,
 Je - sus brings; On the seat of pow'r en - throne Him
 Sav - ior's claim; Saints and an - gels crowd a - round Him,
 um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;



Ev - 'ry knee to Him shall bow. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 While the vault of heav - en rings. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Own His ti - tle, praise His name. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown Him! Crown Him!



Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns be - come the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown the Sav - ior
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Spread a - broad the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and



vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.
 King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior King of kings.
 vic - tor's fame. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.
 Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

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Postlude *Fugue in G-Major*.....*Dietrich Buxtehude*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Council Bluffs Circuit ~ Iowa District West**

Faith Lutheran Church ~ Council Bluffs
Rev. Ronald Rosenkaimer

First Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Valley
Rev. Joseph Hanson

Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ Logan
Rev. Daniel Steeb

Our Savior Lutheran Church ~ Walnut
Peace Lutheran Church ~ Harlan
Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Persia
Rev. Merlene Ostebee

St. John Lutheran Church ~ Honey Creek
Rev. David Kuhnle

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ Council Bluffs
Rev. Nathan Sherrill ~ Rev. Timothy Frank

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ Oakland
St. John's Lutheran Church ~ Hastings (SW Circuit)
Rev. William Caughey

Timothy Lutheran Church ~ Council Bluffs
Rev. Michael Petri

Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Glenwood
Rev. Seth Kaiser



Circuit offerings going toward education! Did you know that your offerings at our joint Circuit services go for education in our Circuit? This summer, August 10-14 specifically, the Council Bluffs Circuit will again host a continuing education course offering through our seminaries held at St. Paul's, Council Bluffs. For the third year, you, members of the Council Bluffs Circuit, have underwritten the class! That means, anyone, pastor and laity alike, can join us for this class completely free of charge! This is the only site in the synod that has done this and may be an example to the rest.

This year's presenter is **Dr. Peter Scaer**, professor and chair of the Exegetical Department of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Dr. Scaer is deeply involved in life issues and serves as president of Allen County Right to Life. He is a founding member of Shepherds United, an ecumenical Christian group formed to defend life, natural marriage and religious liberty. He speaks out of the issues that affect both our Church and society, always placing the focus on Christ, who gives us life and defines for us what it means to be truly human.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center
St. Paul's Music Conservatory
Two Locations
One Word

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Monday – Friday ~ 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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