



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Babbtown & Schubert**

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**Ascension Worship
May 9, 2024 7pm**

Order of Worship: Printed below
(with P for Pastor, C for Congregation)

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Ringing of the Bell
The Prelude
The Words of Welcome

Hymn: TLH 341, "Crown Him With Many Crowns", vs. 1, 4, 5

**Crown Him with many crowns, The lamb upon His Throne;
Hark how the Heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake my soul and sing Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless king Thro' all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of Life Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of Heaven, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is King of all.**

The Invocation

Psalmody, Ps. 148 *(read responsively)*

P: Clap your hands, all peoples!

C: **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

P: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

C: **a great King over all the earth.**

P: He subdued peoples under us,
C: **And nations under our feet.**
P: He chose our heritage for us,
C: **the pride of Jacob whom He loves.**
P: God has gone up with a shout,
C: **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**
P: Sing praises to our God, sing praises!
C: **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**
P: For God is the King of all the earth;
C: **sing praises with a psalm!**
P: God reigns over the nations;
C: **God sits on His holy throne.**
P: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
C: **For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!**
P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Let us pray:

All: Almighty and Everlasting God, Your only Son, our Savior, was taken up to heaven, hidden from the disciples' sight, and in power intercedes with You for us. May we also come to Your presence and live forever in Your Glory through faith in Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit ever one God world without end. Amen.

Hymn: TLH 213 "Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise"

**Hail the day that sees Him rise To His throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Re-ascends His native heav'n.
There the glorious triumph waits: Lift you heads, eternal gates.
He hath conquered death and sin; Take the King of Glory in!
See, the heav'n its Lord receives, Yet He loves the earth He leaves;
Though returning to His throne, Still He calls mankind His own.
See, He lifts His hands above; See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow Blessings on His Church below.
Still for us He intercedes; His prevailing death He pleads,
Near Himself prepares our place, Harbinger of human race.
There we shall with Thee remain Partners of Thy endless rein,
There Thy face unclouded see, Find our heaven of heavens in Thee.**

The Scripture Readings: 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. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴ And 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.”⁶ So 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.

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And 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." ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Extinguishing of the Pascal Candle

All: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God has gone up with a shout: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Hallelujah! You have ascended on high: You have lead captivity captive. Hallelujah!

Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me! This I Know”

**Jesus loves me! This I know for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus Loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. *Refrain***

The Message: Devotional Bible Study

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ having 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might ²⁰ that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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 one to come. ²² And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think that this Epistle reading is chosen for Ascension? What is the ascension connection?
2. This is Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus. What things does he ask for after he gives thanks for them?
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3. Discuss these things.
4. To what events in Christ's life does Paul direct our attention?
5. Why is this important to note?
6. What does Christ's ascension have to do with the church today?
7. What does it mean when we confess that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church?
8. What does it mean that we believe that we are His Body?
9. Why celebrate the ascension?

The Hymn: “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.**

**REFRAIN: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. REFRAIN**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! REFRAIN**

Prayers

**P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
C: Amen.
P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
C: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;
P: To herald Your love in the morning,
C: Your truth at the close of the day**

The Apostles’ Creed is confessed:

**All: 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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was
crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose
again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of
God, the Father almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion
of saints; The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body; And the life
everlasting. Amen.**

**All: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace:
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
Which You have prepared in the sight of every people;
A light to reveal You to the nations
And the glory of Your people Israel.
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**

Prayers For Others and Ourselves

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who are 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.**

Concluding prayers

**P: Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus
Christ.**

C: Amen.

**All: I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would
forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me
this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul,
and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may
have no power over me. Amen.**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn: TLH 657 “Beautiful Savior”

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee, Light of My soul, my Joy, my Crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr’wing spirits sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer. Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise adoration, Now and forever more be Thine! Amen.

Organist: Samuel Luetkemeyer
Pastor: Gerald Scheperle

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Cover pic artwork: designed by Allan Forbis

The Lutheran Hymnal: St. Louis: Concordia, 1941.

Hymn #341: Text: Revelation 19:12; Crown Him With Many Crowns; Author: Matthew Bridges (1851, cento, alt.); Tune: Diademata; Composer: George J. Elvey (1868).

Hymn #213: Text: Acts 1:9; Author: Charles Wesley, 1739, cent, alt.; 1862; Tune: Orientis Partibus, French Melody, c. 1200.

Hymn #657: Scripture: Psalm 45:24; German: Schonster Herr Jesu; Beautiful Savior, King Of Creation; Author: Unknown (1677); Translator: Joseph A. Seiss (1873); Tune: Schonster Herr Jesu; Source: “Schleisiche Volkslieder,” Leipzig, 1842.

“Jesus Loves Me”: Author: Anna Bartlett Warren, from a poem written by her sister, Susan Warren; Composer and Chorus Lyrics, Written by William Batchelder Bradbury, 1862.

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”; Author: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Composer William Marion Runyon, Tune: Faithfulness, 1923.

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