

# *Triune Lutheran Church*



## *The Ascension of Our Lord*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here  
at Triune Lutheran Church, a  
family united by our Risen Lord,  
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

## *Worship*

- The \* by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

## PRELUDE

*Fantasia*

Pachelbel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who calls us beloved children,  
who gathers us into one flock,  
who guides us into all truth. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins,  
trusting that God will forgive us and set us free.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept  
for reflection and self-examination.*

Faithful and just God,  
**we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We have not loved our sisters and brothers  
as you have first loved us.  
Forgive us, God of mercy.  
As the Holy Spirit, work in us  
to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the abundant life  
given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

In this is love,  
not that we loved God but that God loved us  
and sent the Son to set us free from our sins.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
I announce to you that your sins are forgiven.  
Let the perfect love of God cast out fear,  
fill you with joy,  
and inspire you to live for others.  
**Amen!**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“O Christ, Our Hope”

ELW 604

**\*GREETING**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*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

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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.”

The Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM**

Psalm 47

- <sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.
- <sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:  
a great king over | all the earth,**
- <sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;
- <sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**
- <sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.
- <sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**
- <sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.
- <sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**
- <sup>9</sup>The 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.

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## \*GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>44</sup>[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.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And 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.”



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

The is the Holy Gospel of our Lord!  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

ELW 659

### **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
virgin Mary**

**and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the**

**Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver  
of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence*

Lord most high, Lord most holy, you sent your Son to redeem all creation. Enlighten and expand the witness of the whole church. Ground us in the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of all the earth, you formed the creatures of the deep and the birds of the air. Give us wonder and wisdom to care for them as you called us to from the beginning. Help us to revive their habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sovereign God, you reign over the nations. Raise up wise and compassionate leaders in every neighborhood, country, and region. Give them courage and strength for the service to which you call them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healer of our every ill, you know our deepest pains and sorrows. Replenish those who are depressed, bereaved, or exhausted. Mend the brokenhearted. Restore the sick, including Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Gary Weiss, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny

Bennett, Richard Jakubcin, and all those we name in our heart. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, we lift up mothers we love and mothers we struggle to love. For adoptive mothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers. For those who long to be mothers. For everyone who has mothered us in the faith. Give rest, healing, wisdom, and strength. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, your faithfulness endures in every age. Thank you for the witness of the first apostles. Thank you for all the saints who have traveled with us on this journey of faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen!**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

*Hyfrydol*

Hilbert

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

Verse 1

ELW 479

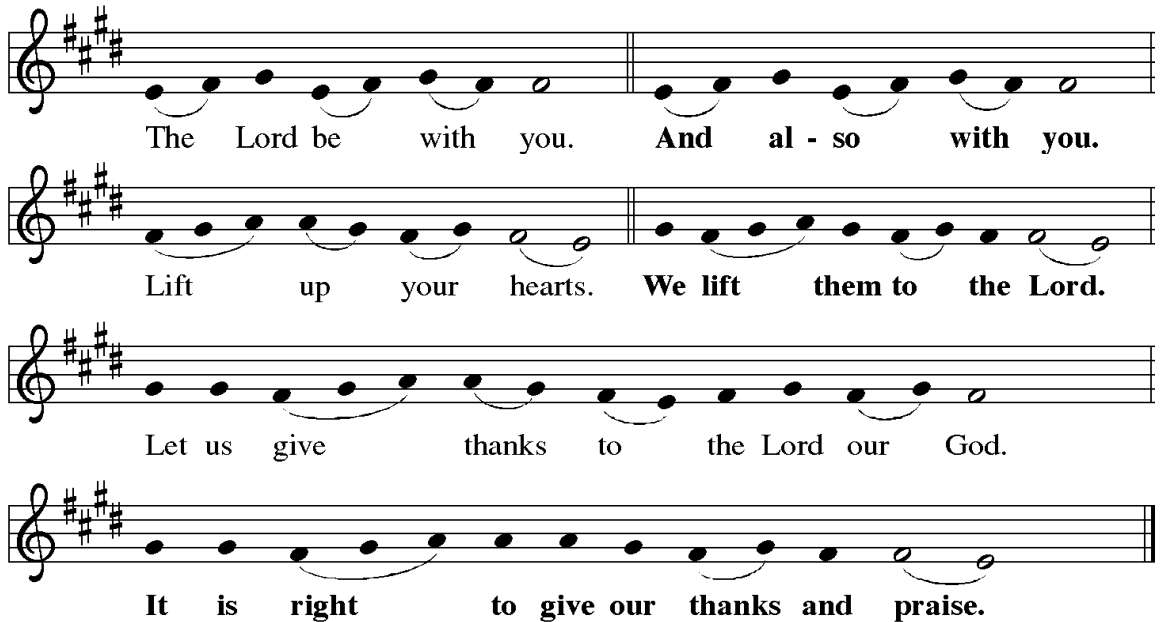
## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as you were made known to the disciples.

Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives,  
that we may be your risen body in the world.

**Amen!**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

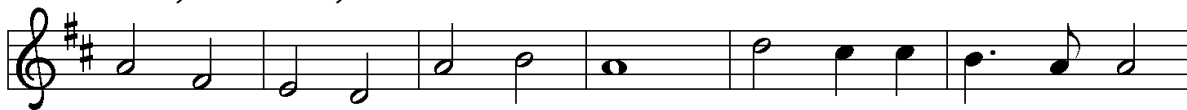
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself  
to take away our sin,

who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter  
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the  
waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us,  
healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.  
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever.

**Amen!**

**\*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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The table of life is spread before you.  
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**



## \*COMMUNION HYMN



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### \*COMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God,  
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection  
you send light to conquer darkness,  
water to give new life,  
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection  
that we may show your glory to all the world;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen!**

## **\*BLESSING**

May God who has brought us from death to life  
fill you with great joy!

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever!

**Amen!**

## **\*SENDING HYMN**

“Blessing and Honor”

ELW 854

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world!

Go in peace. Share the good news!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Praise to the Lord*

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Pastor: ***Brad Ross***  
Assisting Minister: ***Dale Kirk***  
Organist: ***Deb Colmen***  
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

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The Flower bouquet for May 13<sup>th</sup> is from The Schwab Family  
for Evan's Birthday. Happy Birthday, Evan!

## *Luther and The ‘Church Mothers’*

Women were central players in the Reformation drama. As mothers and wives, as daughters and friends, rulers and writers, visionaries and charity workers, and healers and weavers, women embraced reformation concerns and theologies on their terms.

With their hunger for meaningful spiritual direction and a desire to build a better world, women passionately responded to Luther’s novel preaching. Most famously, a young nun, Katharina von Bora (1499-1552), was so inspired by his sparkling pamphlets describing Christian freedom and responsibilities with a new tone that she left her safe convent. Little did she know that she would become the life partner of the most famous religious leader of the time and become a model for women taking control over their households as cradles of new Protestant faith.

Women transmitted faith to their children and surroundings in word, song and deed, especially in the home — their territory — which served as the church where they preached. For some, that wasn’t enough. Each needed to creatively negotiate around the many conventions regarding what “good” women ought to do or ought not to do. Women supposedly did not preach, offer the sacraments, lead, rule, write or disobey their husbands or fathers. In reality, they did all these things.

The Reformation principles of “Scripture alone,” “Christian freedom” and “equality in Christ” gave women a sense of authority to contribute more fully in the affairs of the church and to promote emancipation of others. They did so by their example of involvement but also by writing, even at the risk of persecution for that unsanctioned activity. The most illustrious female writers were Argula von Grumbach from Bavaria and Katharina Schütz Zell from Strasbourg, whose works enjoyed an astonishing circulation and were preserved in reprints.

As pioneering partners with the emerging Protestant forms of spirituality, women tested the renewed focus on forgiveness and grace in practice. Luther’s friend von Grumbach (1492-c. 1563), a noblewoman with small children, drew from the “Scripture alone” principle that gave her, a laywoman, the right to speak. She brazenly challenged in writing an entire (Roman Catholic) university for persecuting a young student because of his Lutheran association. In her view, killing a child or anyone for the sake of religion is never God’s will but simply a crime of injustice. She declared herself a confessor of faith on par with the learned men who refused to embrace Luther’s views.

Women participated in redefining the mission and borders of the church in its sharing of the gospel and gifts of grace. Female teachers were attentive to nurturing the transforming power of the word, especially in the lives of women they knew.

Olimpia Morata (1526-1555), a learned Italian, wife of a German pastor and a skilled translator, in exemplary ways cared for her female associates' education via correspondence. Books were her children.

Marie Dentiere (1495-1561) from Geneva left her convent and emerged as a fiery defender of women's rights in the church — and women's corrective reading of the Scripture — as well as a shameless promoter of marriage over celibate life.

Similarly, Shütz Zell (1498-1562), a pastor's wife from Strasbourg, rose to fame with her fiery letter in defense of her marriage, clergy marriage and marriage rights in general. Her best-selling works varied from consolation texts to educational and meditative pieces, even a hymnbook. She proves that Protestant women defined for themselves how to express their faith and what their calling was as women of faith. With no biological children, she named herself the “church mother” who cared for those in need in her community at large.

The term “church mother” can aptly be used for German Duchess Elisabeth von Braunschweig-Lüneburg (1510-1558), who during her reign took care of implementing the Lutheran Augsburg Confession and a Lutheran church order in what today is Lower Saxony. She left an endearing motto: Children should obey God, the emperor and their mother.

Another towering figure, England's Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603), stands tall for her exemplary wisdom in negotiating the stormy waters as a Protestant ruler who was female and not married — unapologetic on both counts.

Until recently the matriarchs of the Reformation faith have remained in the dark. The [recent 500<sup>th</sup>] Reformation anniversary can rev up momentum for reforms in this regard. For the future of our Protestant traditions, knowledge of our mothers rewards us with new connections and alliances, insights and inspiration. They may surprisingly broaden our vistas on the meaning of Reformation — the core of which is justice.

- Kirsi Stjerna

*Stjerna is professor of Reformation church history and director of the Institute for Luther Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa.). Full article available at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org).*