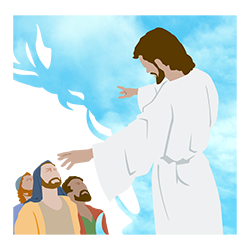
**The Ascension of Our Lord**



**May 21, 2020**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

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**WELCOME TO MESSIAH ONLINE!**

Welcome to on-line worship.  God has reminded us that the Church is not a building, but a people.  It is more often scattered than it is gathered, yet we are always one in Christ Jesus.  Due to the recent COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, we have moved all services to the online digital platform.  Please practice physical distancing, but continue to call, connect, and check-in with each other! Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and still be encouraged; our community needs the hope we have in Christ.  God walks with us. He will overcome! You can watch, listen to, or read the most current sermon as well as any previously recorded services, because it is available in text, audio, and video. Follow the appropriate links on our homepage and choose the date. Holy Communion will be scheduled at your convenience. Feel free to call the office at any time for assistance; messages are checked on a daily basis. Stay safe and care for each other. May God surround you with His richest blessings.

**Preparing for Service**

***The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth***

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, *“appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues *“to do and teach”* (Acts 1:1), preaching *“repentance for the forgiveness of sins”* (Luke 24:47) even *“to the end of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the Word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon *“the church, which is his body”* (Eph. 1:22–23). In this holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself *“in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 1:20).

**Divine Service III**

OPENING HYMN A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing 493, v.1-3

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascends unto the throne of God.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with His faithful foll’wers see  
Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 To them the shining angels cry,  
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
“This is the Savior,” thus they say;  
“This is His glorious triumph day!”  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**CONFESSION pg. 184**

**Invocation**

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**Exhortation**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**Confession of Sins**

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Declaration of Grace**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.  
Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** **Amen.**

**Service of the Word**

**GLORIA PATRI pg. 186**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**KYRIE pg. 186**

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**SALUTATION & COLLECT pg. 189**

P*The Lord be with you.*

**C And with thy spirit**.

P*Let us pray*

PAlmighty 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 (ESV)**

**1**In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2**until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3**He 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; **5**for 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?” **7**He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8**But 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.” **9**And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10**And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11**and 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.”

# **SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)**

**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.

**GOSPEL READING Luke 24:44-53 (ESV)**

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

**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 for the 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**And 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.

# P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES’ CREED pg. 192**

**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.**

HYMN OF DAY A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing 493, v.4-6

4 “You see Him now, ascending high  
Up to the portals of the sky.”  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
Returning in great majesty.”  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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!

**SERMON “The Ascension of our Lord”**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY pg. 192-193**

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH pg. 193**

**Service of the Sacrament**

**PREFACE pg. 194**

P The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

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 pg. 195**

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**LORD’S PRAYER pg. 196**

P 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.

**C** **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD pg. 197**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PAX DOMINI pg. 197**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI pg. 198**

**C** **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table 618

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
 For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
 To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain.

ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
 That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
 So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain.

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
 Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,  
 For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain.

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;  
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
 My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain.

5 What higher gift can we inherit?  
 It is faith’s bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
 The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain.

**NUNC DIMITIS pg. 199**

**C** **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,**

**for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,**

**a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING pg. 200**

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** **and His mercy endureth forever.**

**COLLECT pg. 201**

P Let us pray.

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**SALUTATION & BENEDICAMUS**

**Salutation pg. 201**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction PG. 202**

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, amen, amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CLOSING HYMN Christ Is Our Cornerstone 912

1 Christ is our cornerstone,  
 On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
 The courts of heav’n are filled.  
On His great love  
 Our hopes we place  
 Of present grace  
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav’n  
 The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv’n,  
 Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
 When all the blest  
 To endless rest  
Are called away.

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
 These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
 The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
 In joyful song,  
 Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

SILENT PRAYER/DISMISAL