



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Ascension of Our Lord**  
**May 21, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

***Thought:** I know Ascension always falls on Thursday, but since we are kind of “out of time,” in what we do, I wanted to spend time with this focus. What do you do when a game is over? Usually, go home, win or lose. Right before Jesus ascends, the disciples ask: “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” Did we win? Then the angels come with disciples standing, mouths open staring up to heaven and ask: “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” Is the game over? We shout, “He is Risen!” but Jesus reminds us that “You are my witnesses.” The game is just getting started and you are up!*

**Prelude – Psalm 47 – “Clap Your Hands” – Jason Silver**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsxMc6yPhC0>

**Call to Worship**

Faith may not be looking up, but looking out.  
**Faith may not be knowing answers, but asking questions.**  
Faith may not be judging righteousness, but loving the fearful.  
**Faith may not be doctrine memorized, but risk taken.**  
Let us entrust ourselves to faith in God.

**Gathering Music – “Even When He Is Silent” – Andre Arnesen**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtq9TPnb6kc>

**Litany**

Ascended Lord, look down upon your people here.  
**Bless us now, as you blessed your disciples long ago.**  
Ascended Lord, look down upon your people here.  
**Send us now, as you sent your disciples out to preach long ago.**

Ascended Lord, look down upon your people here.

**Carry us onward and upward to heaven, as you carried your disciples from this life to the next.**

Ascended Lord, look down upon your people here.

**Make us witnesses of your wondrous works, as you called your disciples to be witnesses.**

### **Invocation**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise – “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus” (with lyrics)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56a4w7XxvfY>

### **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.**

### **The Word**

#### **First Reading – Acts 1:1-11**

#### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

1 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.”

#### **The Ascension of Jesus**

<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.”

### Psalm 47

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**<sup>2</sup> For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.

**<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah***

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.

**<sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly 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.

### Holy Gospel – Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup> 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, 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.”

## The Ascension of Jesus

<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.

### Children's Time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y44RVNwPV-U&feature=youtu.be>

### Homily – “You Are My Witnesses” – Pastor Barnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKqSwLsHYxs&feature=youtu.be>

### Hymn of the Day – Psalm 117 – “You Will Be My Witnesses” – David Haas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FcPqbuMgyM>

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead,  
on the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

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.*

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. 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.**

**Offertory Prayer**

With Christ enthroned above, at your right hand, we are bold to cry, O God, "Christ is our King!"  
We offer our gifts as signs of our worship. We offer our lives in service of our King.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**"In the Breaking of the Bread"**

*This is not communion, but it's a way to remind us that as we break bread together, that Christ Jesus is with us in and with and under the bread we share every day.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzi8JZBGEDw&feature=youtu.be>

**Luke 24:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The 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.

***Silence for Reflection***

**"I Can See (The Emmaus Road)" – Steve Green**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOHrapKFmIU>

## Luke 24:32-35

<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>[a]</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*As you break bread this week, stop for a moment – pray – ask the Lord to open your heart to His presence in others and anew, as you hear, read and study His Word.*

John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger; and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

### Closing Prayer

God above and below, God before and behind, God within and without, unfurl our tightly sealed minds, our carefully tended expectations, our protectively enclosed communities. Unfold us. Release us from our prison of assumptions, and agendas, and plans. You tell us (again and again) through mysteries and prophets, through miracles and strangers, through dreams shattered and hope reborn that we only SEE in part, through a cloud of unknowing. Help us claim the courage to stop looking for you only where we have found you in the past. And to trust your new and startling appearance wherever we glimpse it, or think we do. Amen.

### Closing Hymn – “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (with lyrics)– Lily & River

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh\\_ept-Js](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh_ept-Js)

