

# ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 16, 2021

## ASCENSION



**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**66325 M 152, Dowagiac (Sister Lakes), MI 49047**

David Schaller, pastor 269-424-3035

Sunday Worship, 9:00 am - Bible Class and Sunday School, 10:15 am

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A Member Congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR ASCENSION SUNDAY

Adapted from *Worship Supplement 2000* and *The Lutheran Hymnal*

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## OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 213** (TLH)

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

## THE INVOCATION

(We declare that the triune God is the God we worship.)

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

(We confess our sins and hear God's announcement of forgiveness.)

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**PC Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, out of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful to us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need.

## KYRIE ELEISON

(Latin for "Lord, have mercy." Having prayed for our spiritual needs, we now ask God to care for our earthly needs according to His mercy.)

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

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

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

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(We sing a hymn of glory to God.)

Melody: TLH 191 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



**C** **Glory be to God on high; Alleluia!**  
**Christ is ris'n, He meets our eyes! Alleluia!**  
**God shows His goodwill toward men; Alleluia!**  
**Peace now reigns on earth again; Alleluia!**

**Hail, eternal Hope on high! Alleluia!**  
**Hail, Thou King of victory! Alleluia!**  
**Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored! Alleluia!**  
**Help and save us, gracious Lord. Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(A prayer that collects and reflects the themes of the day.)

## THE LESSONS

(We hear Bible readings that support the thoughts of the season.)

**Acts 1:1-11**<sup>NIV84</sup> *Jesus ascends into heaven.* | In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

**Luke 24:44-53**<sup>NIV84</sup> *Luke's account of the ascension tells us of the disciples' joy in their risen Lord.* | He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the

Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**PSALM FOR THE SEASON**  
(see back cover)

Psalm 2  
Why Do the Nations Rage

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

(We respond to the lessons by reciting what we believe.)

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 sits 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.

**HYMN 212:1-4** (TLH)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

**THE SERMON**

(We learn from God's word.)

**GOD UNLEASHES HIS POWER!**

- 1. As seen by seating Christ in the heavenly realms for us*
- 2. As seen by God's great work in us*

**Ephesians 1:16-23**<sup>NIV84</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he


raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

(In the last portion of the service we pray and give thanks to God.)

P And the peace of God which is a greater peace than any our own minds can give to us shall guard your hearts in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.

## THE OFFERTORY

 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.**

OFFERING HYMN 442:1-2 (TLH)      Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us

## PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 219 (TLH)      The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns

CLOSING PRAYER      The Collect for Peace


P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

(The Lord sends us home with His blessing.)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 C **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**HYMN 212:6-7 (TLH)**

**Be Thou Our Joy and Strong Defense**

**Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions, May 17-22, 2021**  
by Prof. Paul Koch (retired)

**Mon Acts 1:13-26** Judas had been lost from the select group of apostles (which Peter had been pondering for over a month) so after a short rehearsal of the career of Judas Iscariot and pertinent Scriptures (15-21), he presented a motion for filling the empty position (13-22). Two nominees had the right qualifications, so they put the matter before Jesus to choose (by the process of voting) between the two, and from heaven Jesus selected Matthias.

**Tues John 17:6-19** We are eaves-dropping on Jesus while He was begging His Father to fill other gaps when He left—gaps that would be mended by bonding His disciples to His Word (6-8) and God’s saving Name (11-12). They could survive among hostiles in enemy territory (13-16), fortified and armored with God’s reliable Word (17) when they graduated (18-19).

**Wed 1 John 4:13-21** God knows every dirty corner of our mind, every stinky centimeter of our character, every crooked streak of our life. Understanding what we are, God still loves us anyway—loves us enough to bear our sins on His own shoulders, reach down and pull us free of Satan’s grip, cuddle and kiss us. We are not afraid of God (17-18), for we know He loves us!

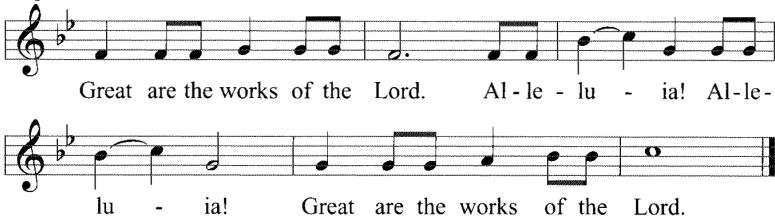
**Thurs Psalm 8** God is great as Creator and Preserver of the Universe (1,3), also entrusting us humans with the care for Earth’s living creatures (6-8). *“How Great Thou Art”* (a familiar gospel song) in stanza three gives the best reason for lifting our voices in soaring praise to our great God. *“That on the cross my burden gladly sharing He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee, ‘How great Thou art!’”*

**Fri Acts 1:9-11** Jesus’ Ascension is put into the record with a dozen words—in contrast to the longer focus on those He left behind. Why this contrast? Because disciples need to focus on the assignments given them on Earth during their time of grace, to prepare themselves and others for Jesus’ return, which we should not only patiently await, but eagerly anticipate.

**Sat Acts 26:1-11** Finally a day in court—even if it was only a pretrial hearing! Paul stepped up to the mic, gestured for attention, and set the record straight—that a) his Jewish background was impeccable, b) his religion was founded on God’s promises of the Resurrection (4-8), and c) he did not think Jesus fit either a) or b). In fact, Paul was committed to the belief that Jesus was an impostor and that His followers should be eradicated—so he intimidated them, tortured them until they cursed Jesus, and chased them down when they fled and sought refuge in foreign lands. He had gone totally berserk! Then Jesus stopped him in his tracks.

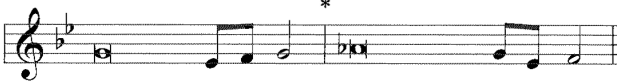
## WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE

*Antiphon*



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm Tone*



Why do the nations rage\*

And the people plot a vain thing?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together,\*  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,  
"Let us break Their bonds in pieces\*  
And cast away Their cords from us."  
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;\*  
The LORD shall hold them in derision.

*Antiphon*

"I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me,\*  
'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.  
Ask of Me, and I will give You  
The nations for Your inheritance,\*  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.'"  
**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.**

*Antiphon*