

Sunday, May 12, 2024

The Ascension of Our Lord (*Observed*)



*Christ's
Ascension
Means He Is
Closer than
Ever*



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Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod

www.els.org

Welcome to Holy Trinity

We're glad you came today to join us in worshiping the one true God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has graciously created us, mercifully redeemed us, and freely gives us all the treasures of heaven through His Word and Sacraments!

If you are a visitor with us today, please sign the "GUEST" cards in the pews and give them to the ushers or pastor. If you want to find out more about what we teach, or are curious about church membership, please talk to our pastor.

A Parents' Room is located at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily leave to calm a child. Inside the Parents' Room you can still see, hear and participate in the worship service.

Wheelchair accommodations are found on the organ side of the church. If you do not use a wheelchair, be careful to leave space in these wheelchair accessible pews for the benefit of those who need them and their families.

HOLY TRINITY is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a national church body headquartered in Mankato, Minnesota. We confess that we are saved by Grace Alone (Eph. 2:8) through Faith Alone (Acts 16:31) revealed in Scripture Alone (John 5:24). Though we are totally sinful from birth, Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross and gives us eternal life in heaven. We subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions (the Book of Concord, 1580) because they are a faithful and accurate summary of this Biblical doctrine. The ELS has been in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) since 1872.



THE OFFICE OF MATINS

ELH p. 109

Hymn • 388, “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Hail the day that sees Him rise
To His throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n,
Reascends His native heav’n.</p> <p>2. There the glorious triumph waits:
Lift your heads, eternal gates,
He hath conquered death and sin;
Take the King of glory in!</p> <p>3. 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.</p> | <p>4. See, He lifts His hands above;
See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His church below.</p> <p>5. Still for us He intercedes,
His prevailing death He pleads,
Near Himself prepares our place,
Harbinger of human race.</p> <p>6. There we shall with Thee remain
Partners of Thy endless reign,
There Thy face unclouded see,
Find our heav’n of heav’ns in Thee.</p> |
|--|---|

-Stand-

Confession of Sin

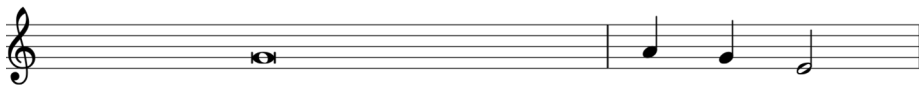
PASTOR *Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

ALL **Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

P *The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

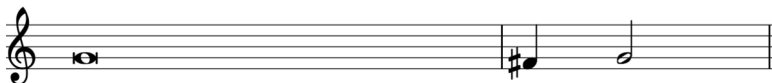
Versicles

P *O Lord, open my lips.*



CONGREGATION And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P *Make haste, O God, to deliver me.*



C Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Gloria Patri ~ Glory to the Father



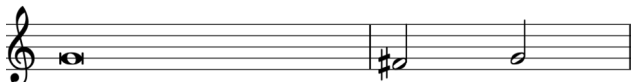
A Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost.



As it was in the beginning, is now and ev-er shall be: for - ev-er-more. A-men.

Invitatory ~ Invitation to praise God

P *O come, let us worship the Lord.*

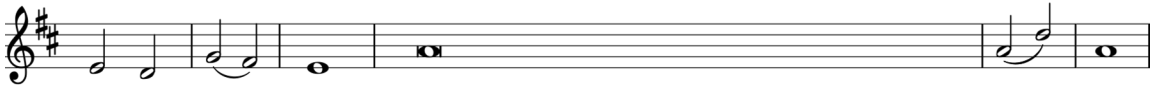


C For He is our Mak - er.

Venite Exultemus ~ Come, let us exalt



A O come, let us sing to the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of



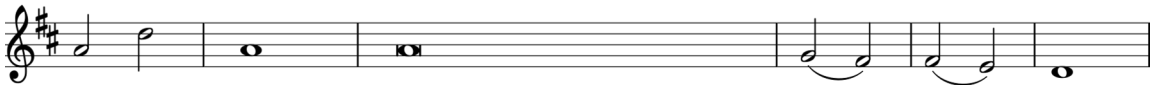
our sal - va - tion. Let us come before His presence with thanks - giv - ing



And make a joyful noise to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great



God: And a great King a - bove all gods. In His hands are the deep places



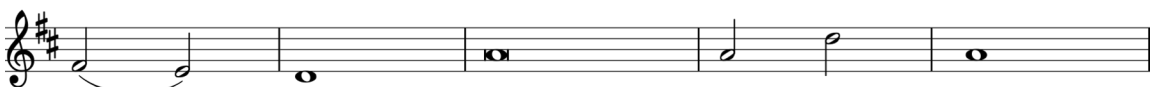
of the earth: The strength of the hills is His al - so.



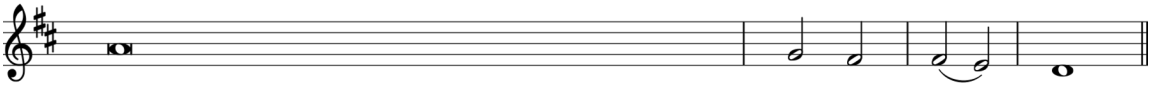
The sea is His, for He made it: And His hands form-ed the dry land.



O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord, our



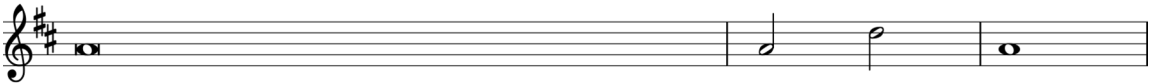
Mak - er. For He is our God:



And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.



Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Ho-ly Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:



For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

☐ *Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

☐ **Amen.**

-Be seated-

First Reading • Acts 1:1-11

Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Clap your hands, all you [|] nations;*
shout to God with [|] cries of joy.

How awesome is the [|] Lord Most High,*
the great King over [|] all the earth!

God reigns over the [|] nations;*
God is seated on his [|] holy throne.

[Refrain]

Refrain

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.

Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone *

God has ascended amid | shouts of joy,*
the Lord amid the sounding of | trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing | praises,*
sing praises to our King, sing | praises.

For God is the King of | all the earth;*
sing to him a | psalm of praise.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son * And to the Holy | Spirit,
As it was in the be- | ginning,* Is now, and will be forever. | A-men.**

[Refrain]**Second Reading • Ephesians 4:7-16**

St. Paul explains the power and purpose of Christ's ascension. Jesus left this world for our good. He ascended so that He could give gifts to his people and build up his Church.

But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ. ⁸That is why it says, "When he ascended on high, he took captivity captive and gave gifts to his people." ⁹Now what does it mean when it says "he ascended," other than that he also had descended to the lower parts, namely, the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. ¹¹ He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, ¹² for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. ¹³ This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ's activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

-Stand-

Gospel • Luke 24:44-53

The risen Savior ascended, and his disciples responded with joyful worship.

He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Responsory

P *O Lord, have mercy upon us.*



C Thanks be to You, O Lord!

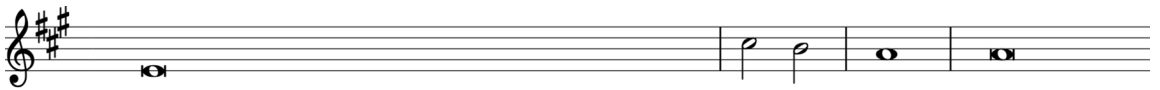
-Be seated-

Sermon Hymn • 389, “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. A hymn of glory let us sing!
 New songs throughout the world shall ring:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Christ, by a road before untrod,
 Ascendeth to the throne of God.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> | <p>3. To whom the angels, drawing nigh,
 “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 “This is the Savior,” thus they say,
 “This is His noble triumph-day.”
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>2. The holy apostolic band
 Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 And with His followers they see
 Jesus’ resplendent majesty.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> | <p>4. “Again shall ye behold Him so
 As ye today have seen Him go.”
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 “In glorious pomp ascending high
 Up to the portals of the sky.”
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>7. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to Thee let earth accord,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Who art, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit One.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> | |

Sermon • *Luke 24:44-53***Ascension Helps Us Celebrate Three Ends:**

- I. The end of Christ's mission on earth.
- II. The ends to which we are to go with the Gospel.
- III. The promise Christ will be with us to the end of time.

Offering**Offering Prayer****Te Deum Laudamus** ~ *You, O God, We Praise*

A We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All creation



worships You, the Father ever - last - ing. To You all angels, all the pow'rs of



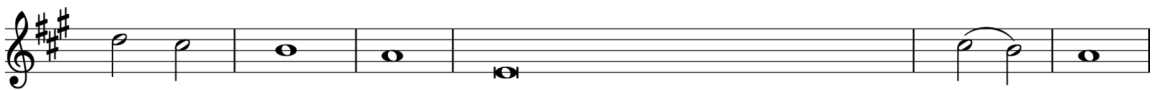
heav'n, Cherubim and seraphim sing in end-less praise: "Holy, holy, holy,



Lord God of heav'nly hosts, heaven and earth are full of Your glo - ry."



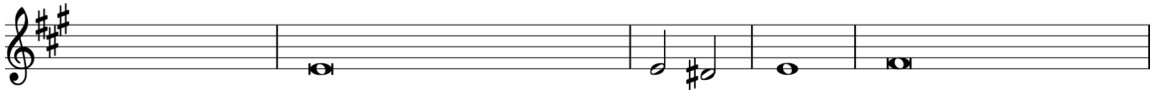
The glorious company of apostles praise You. The noble fellowship of



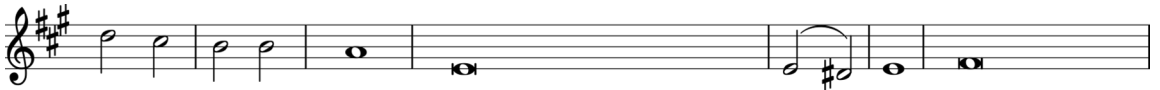
proph-ets praise You. The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.



Throughout the world the Ho-ly Church ac - claims You: Father of majesty



unbounded, Your glorious, true, and on - ly Son, And the Holy Spirit,



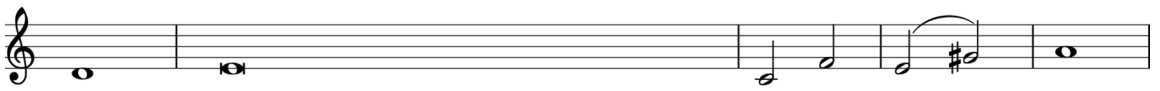
Comfort - er and Guide. You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, The eternal Son



of the Fa - ther. When You became man to set us free,



You humbled Yourself to be born of a Vir - gin. You overcame the sting of



death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther. We believe that



You will come to be our Judge. Come then,



Lord, and help Your peo - ple, Whom You have bought with the price of



Your own blood, And bring us with Your saints to glory ev-er - last - ing.

-Stand-

Kyrie Eleison ~ *Lord Have Mercy*



A Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

A 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.

Collect ~ *Congregation's Prayer*

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, having safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doing, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benedicamus ~ Call for blessing

P *Let us bless the Lord.*



C Thanks be to God.

Apostolic Benediction ~ Final blessing for God's people

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



C A - men.

-Be seated-

Closing Hymn • 392, "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of mine ascension;
This hope alone has ever stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there full well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.</p> | <p>2. Since He returned to claim His throne,
Great gifts for men obtaining,
My heart shall rest in Him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my Treasure went before,
There all my thoughts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.</p> |
| <p>3. O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Thine ascension,
That I may ever walk with Thee, Adorning Thy redemption;
And then, when all my days shall cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.</p> | |

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