



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL



LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
BURLINGTON

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 21/24, 2020

A joint service of First Lutheran (Elkhorn), First Lutheran
(Lake Geneva), and St. John's Lutheran (Burlington)

To the glory of Christ, our glorious and ascended Lord

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, the thought of your glorious ascension into heaven fills my heart with solace and comfort. Even though you returned to heaven as the God-man, you are still my human brother. And so you still empathize deeply with my every infirmity. At the Father's right hand you whisper to him my inmost needs, translating my sin-stained prayers and praises into words of beauty for our Father's ear. Having you, my beloved Brother, in heaven fills me with longing to join you in the Father's house. Now I have proof positive that your offering for my sins is acceptable to the Father. Glorious ascended Savior, thank you for my salvation. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – "See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph" (CW 174)

1. See, the conqu'ror mounts in triumph; See the King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, his chariot, To his heav'nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heav'nly King.

2. Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed his foes.

3. While he lifts his hands in blessing, He is parted from his friends;
While their eager eyes behold him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased him, Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated To his everlasting home.

4. He has raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heav'nly places, There with him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's ascension We by faith behold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, abr., alt.

Invocation – Confession – Absolution

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Lesson – Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“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.”

Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.

²For the Lord Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.

³He subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.

⁴He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

⁵God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.

⁹The nobles of the nations assemble
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of the earth belong to God;
he is greatly exalted.

Lesson – Colossians 3:1-4 (Evangelical Heritage Version)

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on earthly

things. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Hymn – “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (CW 169:1)

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, abr., alt.

Gospel – Lk 24:44-53

⁴⁴ 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these

things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Hymn of the Day – “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (CW 171:1-4)

1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs 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 followers they 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!

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!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.

Sermon – Colossians 3:1-4 – Pastor Preston Heuer

“The Post-Ascension Mindset”

1. Seeks the “Above Things”
2. Remains Confident in Our “Hidden Life”

Hymn – “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (CW 171:5-6)

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!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.

Prayer of the Church for Ascension

M: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father’s majesty, power, and glory, and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**

M: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God’s love for all the world.

C: **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**

M: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan’s every accusation. Ask for the Father’s rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: **You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your Ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: **Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn – “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” (CW 173)

1. On Christ’s ascension I now build The hope of my ascension.
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well I know his members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.
2. Since Christ returned to claim his throne, Great gifts for me 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.
3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

Service Participants

Presiding Minister	Pastor Daniel Waldschmidt, St. John’s Lutheran, Burlington
Lector	Pastor Paul Prange, First Lutheran, Lake Geneva
Preacher	Pastor Preston Heuer, First Lutheran, Elkhorn
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kirk Lahmann, St. John’s Lutheran, Burlington

This service was recorded at St. John’s Lutheran, Burlington.