

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

The Sixth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 16, 2021 ☩ 8:30 A.M.  
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor   Miriam Beecher, Pastor   David Beecher, Minister of Music  
Delee and Tom Rehak, Musician Leaders

**P** = Pastor   **L** = Lector [reader]   **C** Congregation   *ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

## The Ascension of Our Lord

### PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
- C** **We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the GRACE-FILLED waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**
- P** Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
- C** **Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.  
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN: *You Servants of God*

*ELW Hymn 825*

- 1 **You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
- 2 **ASCENDED ON HIGH, almighty to save, yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**
- 4 **Then let us adore and give him his right, all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.      Text is in Public Domain.

### GREETING

- P** The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us.  
Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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## **LESSON: Dialogue for Ascension Sunday: Acts 1:1-11**

- ¶ Today's lesson is from Acts, the first chapter.
  - ¶ [Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>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.
  - ¶ **“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.”
  - ¶ **“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”**
  - ¶ 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.”
  - ¶ **“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.
  - ¶ **“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.”**
  - ¶ Word of God, word of life. ¶ Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus***

*ELW Hymn 392*

- 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.”

**4** Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heav’n your throne.  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Text is in Public Domain.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53**

- P** The Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter      **C**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to the eleven and those with 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.”<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.

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing***

ELW Hymn 393

- 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!
- 5    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: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

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**OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED**

- P**    Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C**    **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 THE CHURCH**

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." Please respond, "Your mercy is great."*

*The prayers end with these words, "In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>****THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- |          |  |          |   |
|----------|--|----------|---|
| <b>P</b> | The Lord be with you.  | <b>C</b> | <b>And also with you.</b>                         |
| <b>P</b> | Lift up your hearts.   | <b>C</b> | <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>                  |
| <b>P</b> | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  | <b>C</b> | <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b> |
| <b>P</b> | It is indeed right, our duty and our delight, that we should everywhere and always offer<br>thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross<br>and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation; and so,<br>with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven we praise your name. |          |   |

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

- P**    In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
     Do this for the remembrance of me.  
     Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
     This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
     Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.

## SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church in the sanctuary or remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:  
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

*ELW Hymn 579*

**1** Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”  
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

*Refrain: With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.*

**3** Lord, you make the common holy: “This my body, this my blood.”  
Let us all, for earth’s true glory, daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense A-701929

## PASTORAL BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

**P** May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*ELW Hymn 855*

**1** Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon HIS THRONE;  
hark, how the heav’ly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.  
**4** Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and ROSE ON HIGH,  
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
**5** Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

Text is in Public Domain.

## DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!  
**P** Go in peace. Share the good news. Invite everyone to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life! Alleluia!  
**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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*Altar Guild: Jan and Jim Christopher ♦ Tech Crew: Carol Jensen-Linton, Brad Milburn, Debra Myers, David Turk  
Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Miriam and David Beecher in celebration of their son Matt’s birthday.*