

ASCENSION SUNDAY

ROCKS AND STRINGS AND OTHER THINGS



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

May 29, 2022

11:00 A.M.

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Sunday of The Ascension † May 29, 2022 † 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High [Please sing twice.]

ELW Hymn 857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way; from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954 Text © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., administered by Music Services CCLI License 1160091

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ **GATHERING HYMN: 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!**
- 3 To whom 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; translated for *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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↑ GREETING

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

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ 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. ☑ **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 4:1-9

—New Century Version

L Today's Old Testament lesson is from Joshua, the fourth chapter.

After all the people had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe. ³Tell them to get twelve rocks from the middle of the river, from where the priests stood. Carry the rocks and put them down where you stay tonight.”

⁴So Joshua chose one man from each tribe. Then he called the twelve men together ⁵and said to them, “Go out into the river where the Ark of the LORD your God is. Each of you bring back one rock, one for each tribe of Israel, and carry it on your shoulder. ⁶They will be a sign among you. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these rocks mean?’ ⁷Tell them the water stopped flowing in the Jordan when the Ark of the Agreement with the LORD crossed the river. These rocks will always remind the Israelites of this.”

⁸So the Israelites obeyed Joshua and carried twelve rocks from the middle of the Jordan River, one rock for each of the twelve tribes of Israel, just as the LORD had commanded Joshua. They carried the rocks with them and put them down where they made their camp. ⁹Joshua also put twelve rocks in the middle of the Jordan River where the priests had stood while carrying the Ark of the Agreement. These rocks are still there today.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-20

—New Century Version

L Today's lesson from Paul's writings is from his letter to the Ephesians, the first chapter.

Iheard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you.

C *I always **REMEMBER** you in my prayers,*

L ¹⁷asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you will know him better.

¹⁸I pray also that you will have greater understanding in your heart

C **SO [THAT] YOU WILL KNOW**

L the hope to which he has called us and

C **[SO] THAT YOU WILL KNOW**

L how rich and glorious are the blessings God has promised his holy people. ¹⁹And

C **[SO THAT] YOU WILL KNOW**

L that God's power is very great for us who believe.

C **That power is the same as the great strength ²⁰God used to raise Christ from the dead and put him at his right side in the heavenly world.**

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW Hymn 393

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!

↑ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-51

—New Century Version

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] said to them, “Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen—everything in the law of Moses, the books of the prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

⁴⁶He said to them, “It is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day

⁴⁷and that a change of hearts and lives and forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I will send you what my Father has promised, but you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.”

JESUS GOES BACK TO HEAVEN

⁵⁰Jesus led his followers as far as Bethany, and he raised his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹While he was blessing them, he was separated from them and carried into heaven.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blessing and Honor*

ELW Hymn 854

- 1 **Blessing and honor and glory and pow’r, wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne!**
- 2 **Let all the heavens sound forth Jesus’ name; let all the earth sing his glory and fame.
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flow’r echo his praises and tell of his pow’r;
echo his praises and tell of his pow’r.**
- 3 **Ever ascending the song and the joy, ever descending the love from on high;
blessing and honor and glory and praise--this is the theme of the hymns that we raise;
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, altered

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↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

☞ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

☞ 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 “God, in your mercy” please respond, “hear our prayer.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.” Please respond, “Amen.”

OFFERING MUSIC: *How Great Thou Art* with Majesty

Sanctuary Choir

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, // Majesty, worship his majesty;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, // unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing // Majesty, kingdom authority,
Jesus, who died, now glorified; his name be praised.

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! // Majesty, // How great thou art!
Worship his majesty. // Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art!
How great thou art! Jesus who, now glorified! How great thou art!

How Great Thou Art Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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Majesty text: Jack Hayford CCLI Song # 1527 © 1981 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI License 11160091

This arrangement is by Joel Raney (2001), and was given in honor of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of David and Miriam Beecher, March 6, 2006.

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>



↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

—ELW page 144

↑ 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.
Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine or white grape juice.
You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine
(as we have been using throughout the pandemic).
At home commune each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

COMMUNION HYMN: *When Memory Fades**ELW Hymn 792*

- 1** When mem’ry fades, and recognition falters, when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused,
speak to our souls of love that never alters; speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.
O God of life and healing peace, empow’r us with patient courage, by your grace infused.
- 2** As frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish,
in weary arms which worked their earnest fill,
your aging servants labor now to finish their earthly tasks, as fits your mercy’s will.
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing, your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.
- 3** Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one.
All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading. No valued deed will ever be undone.
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and off’rings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense A701929

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☞** God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever. **☞ Amen.**

↑ SENDING HYMN: *Remember and Rejoice**ELW Hymn 454*

- 1** Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.
- 2** In life, in death, we trust in God’s most holy name,
forever traced by water sign, and sealed by Spirit flame.
- 4** God, bless us by your grace; remind us of your care.
Renewing Spirit, fill us now, inspire our work, our prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense A701929

↑ DISMISSAL

- ☞** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **☞ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☞** Nourished by the Shepherd’s abundant love, go forth to walk in the paths of righteousness.
Love one another in truth and action. May God’s abundant blessings abide in you forever.
- ☞ Amen. Thanks be to God.**

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*Altar Guild: Jan and Jim Christopher**Ushers: Gus Reed and Buddy Troy (8:30); Kathie Manes and Ben McCumber (this service)**Tech Crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30); Sara and David Turk, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn
(this service)**Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Scott Bosecker, in memory of LT Leo McSherry USN
(1957-1987).*