

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 5, 2024

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church • 106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215

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The Ascension of Our Lord

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Prelude

Gathering

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or stand as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #142 (green hymnal) vv. 1-4

“Hail Thee, Festival Day” (*Ascension refrain & verses*)

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.**

Kyrie

WOV Setting 4

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men

Hymn of Praise

WOV Setting 4

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

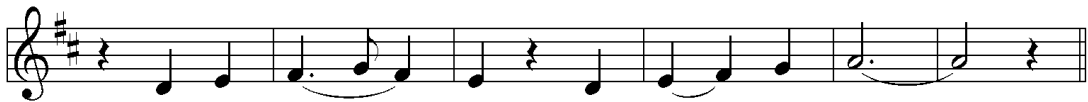
Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of



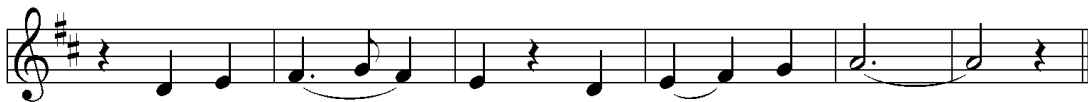
all cre - a - tion: ☐ Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and



might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

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.**

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Christ is risen!

The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Chet, as you read to us the scriptures, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Luke writes: ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: “The Ascended King” (Psalm 47)



1 All na - tions, clap your hands, Let shouts of tri - umph ring,
2 A - bove our might - y foes He gave us power to stand,
3 With shouts as - cends our King, With trump-et's stir - ring call;
4 O sing in joy - ful strains, And make His glo - ry known;
5 Our fa - thers' God to own The kings of earth draw nigh,



For might - y o - ver all the lands The Lord Most High is King.
And as our her - it - age He chose The good - ly prom - ised land.
Praise God, praise God, His prais - es sing, For God is Lord of all.
God o - ver all the na - tions reigns, And ho - ly is His throne.
For none can save but God a - lone, He is the Lord Most High.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him

the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #158 (green hymnal) vv. 1-2, 4

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

The Holy Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Jesus 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to

Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #171 (green hymnal)

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: Since we know “the hope to which Jesus has called us, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18), we give our offering without fear of the future, trusting in the power of Almighty God.

Presentation of the Gifts

WOV Setting 4

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Meal

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who, after his resurrection, appeared openly to his disciples and, in their sight, was taken up into heaven, that he might make us partakers of his divine nature. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

WOV Setting 4

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows two lines of musical notation on a five-line staff. The first line begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The notes are: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a half note G5. Below the staff, the lyrics "Christ has died. Christ is ris - en." are written. The second line also begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The notes are: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note G5. Below the staff, the lyrics "Christ will come a - gain." are written. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for

the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.



P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.



P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

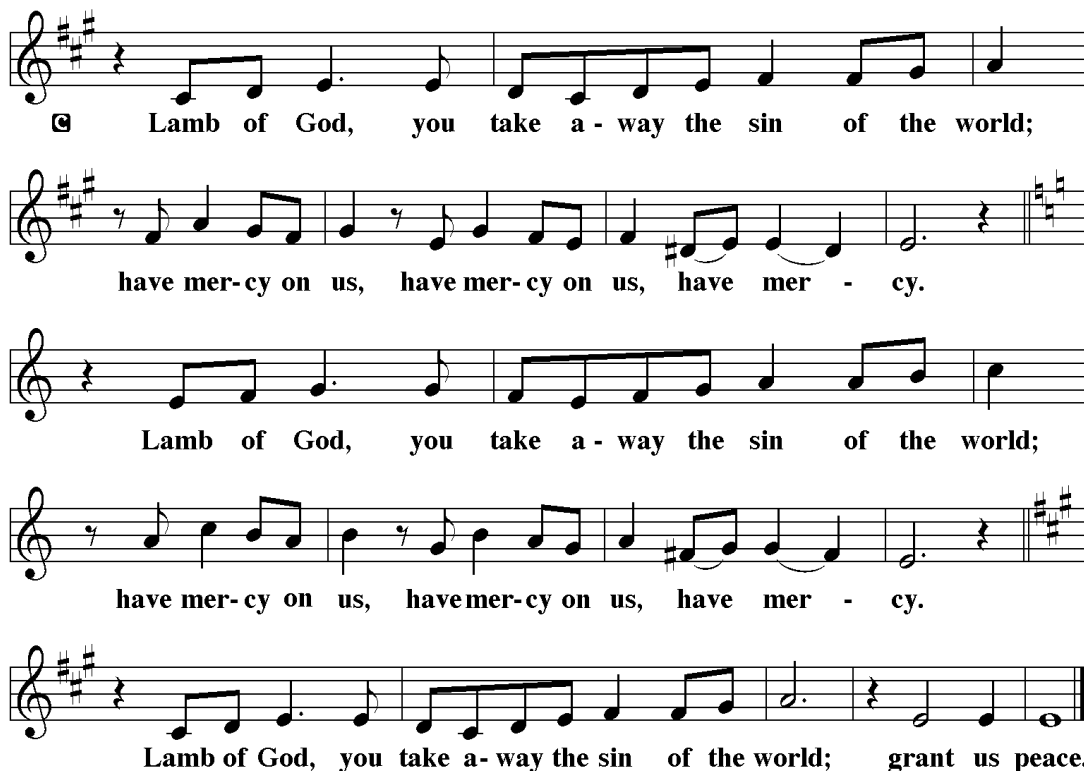
P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

WOV Setting 4



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymn #172 (green hymnal)

“Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

WOV Setting 4



Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #157 (green hymnal) vv. 1, 6-7

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”

Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Addy Kruse, Assisting Minister

Chet Laine, Reader

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 5: Ascension of Our Lord

9 am Sunday School / Adult Bible

Study & Discussion

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Evangelism Committee

Wednesday, May 8

2:30 pm Bible study

Sunday, May 12: 7 Easter

9 am Intergenerational Sunday

School

10:30 am Worship Service

Wednesday, May 15

2:30 pm Bible study

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