

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Feast of the Ascension

+ May 18, 2023 +

# The Ascension of Our Lord

## + May 18, 2023 +



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today, and pray God's richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew. Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!*

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

### **WELCOME:**

“The glory of God is the living man.”

–St. Irenaeus of Lyon, *Against Heresies*

“Since the dawn is an image of the day of birth, and from that point the light which has shone forth at first from the darkness increases, there has also dawned on those involved in darkness a day of the knowledge of truth. In correspondence with the manner of the sun's rising, prayers are made looking towards the sunrise in the east.”

–St. Clement of Alexandria

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal<sup>3</sup>. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

**Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?**

**Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?**

**Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?**

**Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?**

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

# DIVINE SERVICE II

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

#495

*The congregation stands to face the back of the church.  
As the processional cross passes, the congregation turns to face the cross.*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**PSALM: OMNES GENTES, PLAUDITE**

*Psalm 47; Ant. Psalm 47:5*



God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

**The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my | right hand,\*  
until I make your enemies your | footstool.”**

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,\*  
“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”

**The Lord is at your | right hand;\*  
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.**

**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. | Amen.**

God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

**KYRIE**

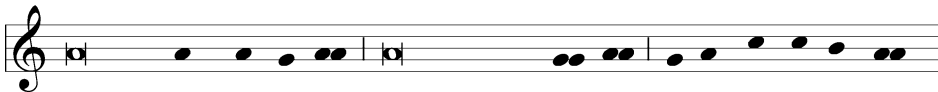
*Mark 10:47*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



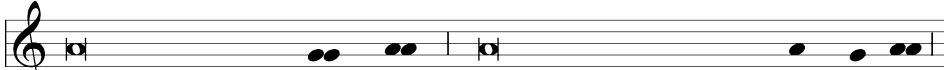
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



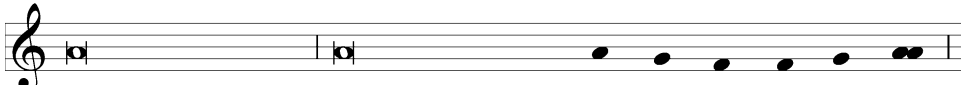
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



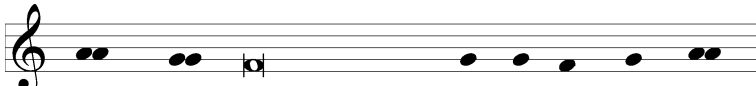
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# DIGNUS EST

*Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9*



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



**B** 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 and 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. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

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

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

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

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

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### FIRST READING

*Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

*Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7, Ps. 8:6*



**Christ has risen | from the dead.\***

**God the Father has crowned him with glory and | honor,  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands; \*  
he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

**EPISTLE**

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

**ALLELUIA**



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Then he said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Please be seated*

**OFFICE HYMN**

**See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph**

**#494**

**SERMON**

*Dominion*

*Please stand*

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God, (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)

**the Father Almighty,** (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)

**maker of heaven and earth** (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)

**and of all things visible and invisible.** (Col 1:16)

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,** (Rom 10:9)

**the only-begotten Son of God,** (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)

**begotten of His Father before all worlds,** (Jn 1:2)

**God of God, Light of Light,** (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)

**very God of very God,** (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)

**being of one substance with the Father,** (Jn 10:30)

**by whom all things were made;** (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)

**who for us men and for our salvation** (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)

**came down from heaven** (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary** (Lk 1:34-35)

**and was made man;** (Jn 1:14)

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.** (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)

**He suffered and was buried.** (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures** (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)

**and ascended into heaven** (Acts 1:9)

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.** (Acts 7:55)

**And He will come again with glory** (Mt 26:64)

**to judge both the living and the dead,** (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)

**whose kingdom will have no end.** (2 Pt 1:11)

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,** (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)

**the Lord and giver of life,** (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** (Jn 15:26)

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,** (Mt 3:16-17)

**who spoke by the prophets.** (Eze 11:5)

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,** (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,** (Eph 4:5)

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead** (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

**and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come.** (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

**Amen.** (Ps 106:48)

*Us men* means all people.

*Christian:* the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Please be seated*

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so 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 Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine nature. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

# SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
✠ Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

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

**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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28;*

*Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.



## AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to the pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**Up through Endless Ranks of Angels**

**#491**

**O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire**

**#553**

*Please stand following distribution of communion*

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

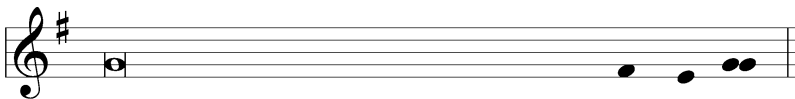
**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*



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



**C** A - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

## A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

**#493**

### Acknowledgments

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### Today's Worship Servants:

**Celebrant:** Rev. George Fields

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Altar Guild:** Michelle Miller & Nancy Teal

**Elder:** Gary Atchley

**Interpreter:** Denee Smith



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102  
Church phone: (601) 366-2055  
[www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org](http://www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org)