

## **Ascension of Our Lord**

**June 1, 2025**

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Pastorale on "Charleston"* MARTIN

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!*

*In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come. Amen.*

*Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.*

*Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.*

*We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.*

*We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.*

*Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen.*

**HYMN** #393 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (Verses 1,3,5)* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## **GREETING**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!*

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

## KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.  
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;  
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.  
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## FIRST READING: Acts 1: 1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[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. <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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."

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 47 (we read responsively, verse by verse)

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a joyful sound.
- <sup>2</sup> **For the Lord Most High is to be feared:  
a great king over all the earth,**
- <sup>3</sup> who subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet;
- <sup>4</sup> **who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,

the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

**6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

**7 For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a song.**

**8 God reigns over the nations;  
God is enthroned on high.**

**9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1: 15-23**

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.*

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

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>44</sup> [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.”<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.

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON** *Friar Tucker O’Leary, Senior Pastor*

**HYMN** #579 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission (Verses 1,3,5)* ABBOT’S LEIGH

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

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.

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.

## **THE PRAYERS**

*God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need*

*...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

*We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.*

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING** *Liverpool* MARTIN

**OFFERTORY** #692 *We Are an Offering* OFFERING

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you,  
we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours:  
we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you,  
we are an offering, we are an offering.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The Lord be with you. And also with you.*

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

*Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.*

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*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.*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: 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**

*Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.*

## BLESSING

*The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN** ACS 991 *Go to the World* SINE NOMINE

## DISMISSAL

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *All Creatures of Our God and King* DICKENS

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*Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great*  
**Welcome to First Lutheran Church.**

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

**WE ASK EVERYONE** to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the glory of God by Mary Lou McCann in loving memory of Howard & Tressie Achey and Roger May.

**THE 2025 FLOWER CHART** is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** is needed each Sunday throughout summer. If you have a special musical talent and would like to provide a vocal solo or duet, a piano solo, a bassoon solo, a saxophone or guitar ensemble during the summer months, please contact Miriam Gibson at 419-615-8224 or sign up on the calendar that is attached to her office door which is located upstairs. Many thanks!

**HELP IS NEEDED ON TUESDAY** afternoons from 4:15 or at least by 5:15 to pick up the donation from Riehm Farms. The donation box can be picked up and given to City Mission, CHOPIN Hall or used by the volunteer picking up the donation box. Please consider helping with this project. It takes only a few minutes. If you have any questions. Call Carolyn Bryant, 567-232-0160.

**SEARCHING FOR USHERS!!** Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and be sure to sign up if you're available! It's a wonderful way to meet new people and show our community what a welcoming church we are!

**WE ARE SO CLOSE** to being done redecorating the women's bathroom on the first floor! If you would like to contribute to the finishing touches, take a look at the bulletin board to see suggested offerings, or you can make a note on your offering envelope. Thank you!

**SOCIAL MINISTRY** will again be helping with Stuff the Bus. The Blue Box will be set up to help gather school items for children of all ages. This year Christian Clearing House is asking for a collection of socks along with the school supplies. More details will be on the Blue box, so keep an eye out for it!

**OPEN POSITION:** The position of Assistant Building Manager will become available this summer. It is a part time position. Duties include opening and closing the church building, keeping and maintaining the church building, assisting the Building Manager as assigned. If interested, please contact Ben Stevens, Building Mgr., Pastor Tucker, or Marilyn Dunn.

**SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS** across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

**A CARD WRITING MINISTRY** has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!