



Ascension  
Day

May 21, 2020

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

We celebrate the ascension of our Lord Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, suffered and died in our place. Jesus rose from the dead. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. Jesus ascended into heaven, as one child from Zion Lutheran School in Westwood once said to Rev. Jack Wangerin, "Because He got the job done!"

**OPENING SONG ..... A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING!**

- 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, alleluia!**
- 2. The holy apostolic band  
Up on the Mount of Olives stand.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with His faithful followers see  
Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Pastor Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**People Amen**

Pastor This is the day the Lord has made;

**People let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor From the rising of the sun to its setting

**People the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**People I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Pastor Be of good cheer. Jesus suffered, died, rose from death and ascended into heaven for you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit.

**People Amen.**

**SONG ..... *A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING!***

- 1. To them 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, alleluia!**
- 2. "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, alleluia!**

## THE COLLECT FOR ASCENSION DAY

Pastor      Lord Jesus Christ, ruling King on high, You are our Light and our Salvation. You have led captivity captive and set the captives free. You ascended on high to rule over the universe, the church, and the world. Keep us ever faithful. Keep us ever watchful for your appearance at the end of time. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People      Amen

## READINGS

### ***First Reading: Acts 1:1-11***

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> 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;<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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,<sup>11</sup> 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."

Lector This is the Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

Pastor In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**People But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:** (People Stand)

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

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Luke 24:44 – 53**

<sup>44</sup> 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."<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> 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."

<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 blessed them, he parted 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 were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*At the end of the Gospel reading, the Christ Candle, which has reminded us of the presence of the risen Lord Jesus, will be extinguished. Jesus' promise, though, is that He will be with us always. He keeps this promise through Word and Sacrament, and by the sending of His Holy Spirit.*

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished as these words are spoken.)*

Pastor Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come!

**People        Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.**



**SONG** ..... *JESUS LOVES ME*

1. Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong. *Refrain:*

*Refrain:* Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

2. Jesus loves me, He who died,  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in. *Refrain.*

**MESSAGE**

## PRAYER

Pastor Lord Jesus, You came to this earth as a little baby

**People You lived an obedient life in our place.**

Pastor When the time was right, You laid down Your life on the cross.

**People God raised You to life on Easter morning.**

Pastor You came into the Upper Room on Easter evening.

**People You showed Your disciples the scars on Your hands, feet and side.**

Pastor You told Your disciples that they would be Your witnesses.

**People You told them they would share Your story in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.**

Pastor In Your name You give forgiveness of all our sins.

**People In Your name You give us the free gift of eternal life.**

Pastor On the day of Your ascension, You rose into the clouds.

**People Yet the angels standing by the disciples' side said You will come again in glory.**

Pastor By the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share Your story.

**People Help us to share the Good News of Your love in Closter, and in New Jersey, and to the ends to the earth.**

Pastor Help us to remember Your promise:

**People "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Pastor Help us to look forward to Your coming again in glory.

**People Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.**

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

**People 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.**

## **BLESSING**

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

**People Amen.**

**SONG** ..... ***Crown Him with Many Crowns***

- 1. Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heavenly 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.**
- 2. Crown Him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now His brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem;  
The root whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.**

- 3. Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes at mysteries so bright.**
- 4. Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed ov'r 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 Heav'n, enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the King to Whom is given the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is King of all.**