



GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH • SCHOOL



**SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

**MAY 15, 2021 - 5:00 PM**

**MAY 16, 2021 - 10:45 AM**

*(The \* indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **WELCOME**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (sts. 1-4) Hymn 493  
*(Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)*

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

**“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!**

### **\*THE INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

## **\*THE OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD;

People: **let my cry come to You!**

Pastor: Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress!

People: **Incline Your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call!**

Pastor: O God, save me, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might.

People: **O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

Pastor: The LORD has heard my plea;

People: **The LORD accepts my prayer.**

## **\*THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God and confess our sins to Him, praying for His gracious forgiveness.

People: **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put You first. We have used Your holy name in ways that do not honor You and have not been constant in prayer and devotion. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty with others. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have coveted that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on everything. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE** “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (sts. 5 & 6) *Hymn 493*

**Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,  
And be our future great reward.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Then, throned with You forever, we  
Shall praise Your name eternally.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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!

### \*THE SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Risen and ascended Lord, You now pray for us at the throne of the Father. Keep all those whom You love in Your name, O Lord, that they may be one even as You and the Father are one; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### THE FIRST READING

*Acts 1:3-11*

<sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SECOND READING

*Ephesians 1:17-21*

<sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray

also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup>which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE ANTHEM

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”  
(Vocal Duet)

E. Wyse

## \*THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1, 4-5, 11-19

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you...<sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began...<sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## [10:45] CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

**On Christ’s ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully  
In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.**

**THE SERMON**

**“Sent and Returning”**

*Acts 1:9*

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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 BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN** "Crown Him with Many Crowns"  
(sts. 1, 4 & 5)

*Hymn 525*

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav'nly 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.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er 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.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n 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.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

**WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS**

**SATURDAY, 5:00 PM**

The Preacher

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

The Organist

Sandy Hulse

The Lector

Roger Walker

The Usher/Greeter Team

Bill McComb, Bill Smith

**SUNDAY, 10:45 AM**

The Preacher

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

The Liturgist

Vicar Michael Duffy

The Organist

Wynn Bonner

The Sound Technician

Bruce Wales

The Vocalists

Wynn Bonner, Kimberly Sheerin

The Elder on Duty

Jennifer Smith

The Lectors

Angie Nierman, Steve Nierman

The Robing Leader

Leah Welter

The Crucifer

Lilliann Witcher

The Candle Bearers

Kennedy Miller, Vincent Miller

The Acolytes

Vera Terry, Bella Wallace

The Welcome Team Greeter

Holly Terry with Lucy

At the Welcome Center

Britta Witcher with Annabelle

The Welcome Team Ushers

Donna Enzor, Steve Griffith, Carl Rod

**CREDITS**

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**Acknowledgments**

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