# The Victory in Christ's Ascension Is Ours

June 1, 2025



**Ascension Sunday** 

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. This folder contains all the information about our services and the congregational responses are indicated by indented and bolded letters. Please also take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this is used by the pastor and elder only. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

**THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS:** Our King mounts his throne in victory to sit at the right hand of the Father.

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26

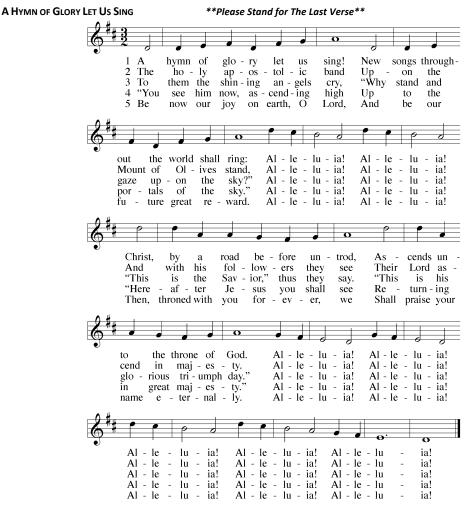
The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.







OPENING HYMN: #171



6 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!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673-735, abr.; tr. composite.

une: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (888 888 with Alleluias) Ausserlesene, Catholische, Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623, alt.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

### Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**K**YRIE

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

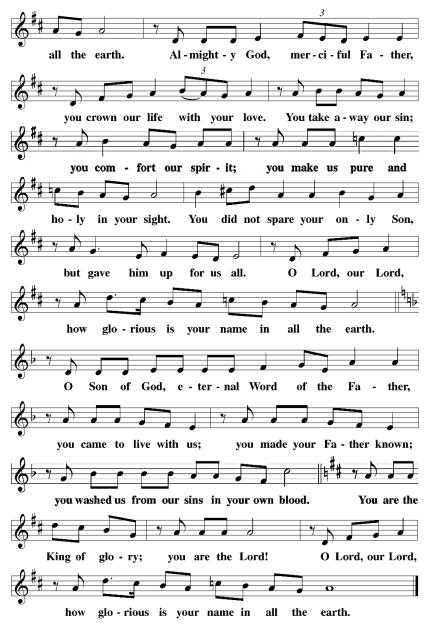


Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (Psalm 145:3)





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope

of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



\*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

## FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 14: 21 – 31

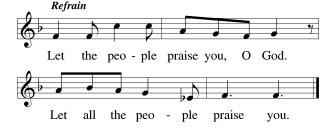
The Lord King rises before his people to lead them against the enemy. Even Egypt knew that the LORD was fighting for them against Egypt. How great is the victory God won! Not a single enemy survived. On this day of Ascension we remember that God in Christ joined the battle for salvation.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his charioteers went after them into the middle of the sea. During the last watch of the night, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud. Then he confused the Egyptian forces. He jammed their chariot wheels, and they had difficulty driving them. The Egyptians said, "We must flee from Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal place. While the Egyptians were fleeing from it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. The waters came back and covered the chariots and the charioteers, the entire army of Pharaoh that went into the sea after the Israelites. Not even one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. On that day the Lord saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the mighty hand which the Lord put into action against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 47





Clap your hands, all you <u>na</u>tions;\*
shout to God with <u>cries</u> of joy.
How awesome is the <u>LORD</u> Most High,\*
the great King over <u>all</u> the earth!
God reigns over the <u>na</u>tions;\*
God is seated on his <u>ho</u>ly throne.

\*\*Refrain\*\*

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,\*
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;\*
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;\*
sing to him a psalm of praise.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*
and to the Holy Spirit,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON ACTS 1: 1 – 11

as it was in the beginning,\*

This account of the Ascension of our Lord, as recorded by St. Luke, complements the Gospel lesson. Jesus visibly departs, leaving his followers with the promise of the Holy Spirit, a call to witness, and the promise that he will come again.

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

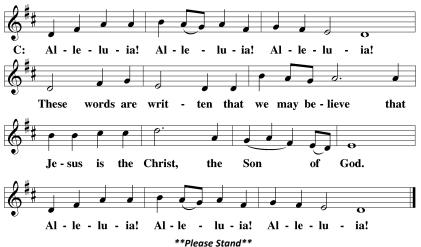
So when they were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20b cf. NIV)



GOSPEL LUKE 24: 44 – 53

The Scriptures had been fulfilled. Humankind had been redeemed. Death had been conquered and the King was going home. Now, begins the work of carrying the message of Christ's victory to the ends of the earth. We are witnesses, clothed with the Spirit and filled with resurrection joy.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to

them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.



## HYMN OF THE DAY:

#173





Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt. Tune: Nun freut euch, lieben Christen (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SERMON TEXT: EXODUS 14: 21 – 31

SERMON THEME: BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

\*\*Please Stand\*\*

#### 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

#### \*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

OUR OFFERING: In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul tells us: "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

## PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

# Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

# Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

### **Special Prayers and Intercessions**

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

## Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

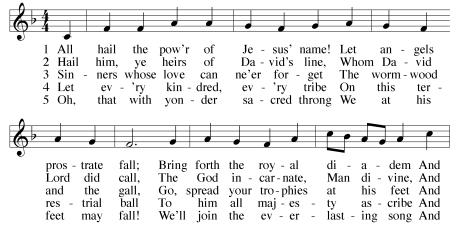
Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

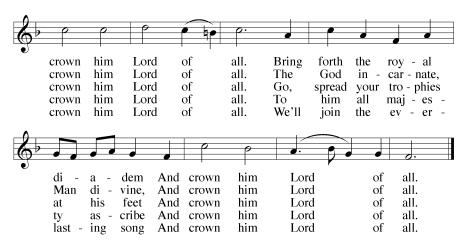
## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #370

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME





Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–92, st. 1-3, abr., alt.; *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, st. 4-5, alt. Tune: CORONATION (86 86 86) Oliver Holden, 1765–1844.

## \*\*Please Stand\*\*

#### THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

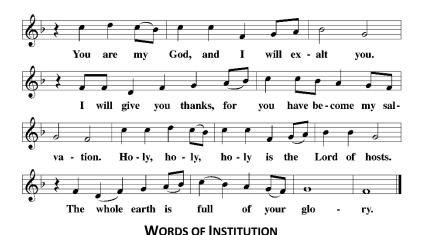


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever:







Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $(\dagger)$  body,

which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

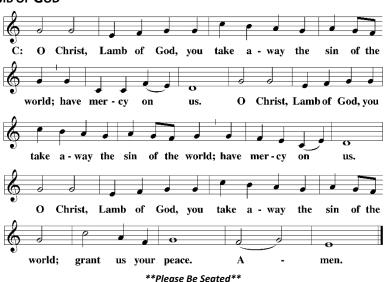
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

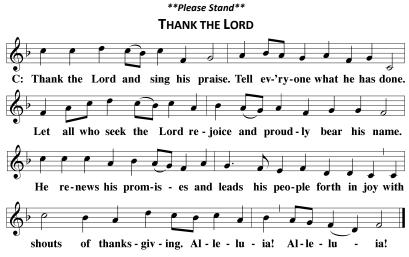
# O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



#### DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

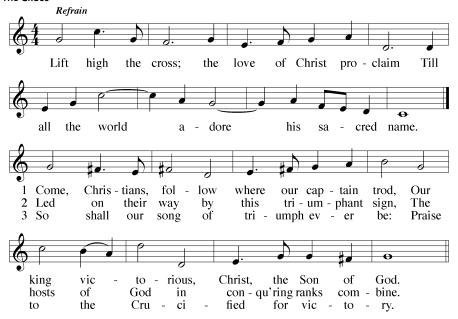
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and  $(\dagger)$  give you peace.



**CLOSING HYMN:** #579

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, abr., altered by Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt. © 1974

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Tune: CRUCIFER (10 10 10 10) Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Calendars:** June calendars are available in the entryway; please take one today.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** We have resumed our study of Luke's Gospel. Our Sunday morning Bible study starts at 9:00 a.m. Feel free to come and go as needed; reading is entirely voluntary, and questions are always welcome.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Join us at 6 pm at Greg and Penny Port's home, located at 1923 NW Nickernut Ct, or you can also participate via Zoom. We are focusing on reaching out to our neighbors using Pastor David Rosenau's One by One Bible study. The link to join us on Zoom is provided, or you can email Pastor Emmons, and he will send you the link.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057 Password: GraceOT

**Synod Convention:** As our congregation continues to grow, we invite two lay members from Grace to participate in this year's Synod Convention as representatives of Grace. The convention will occur from June 15 to June 19. Housing will be provided, and the congregation will cover your transportation. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Pastor Emmons will be traveling from June 8 to 27, and there will be no communion services on June 15 or 22.

**Home Visits:** Pastor Emmons will conduct home visits. Please inform him of any times you will not be available so he can schedule your visit accordingly. This is an opportunity to discuss any personal issues you may have or share ideas for our congregation.

**Pastor's Vacation:** Pastor and Tammi will leave for vacation after church on June 8 for the Synod Convention in Minnesota, returning by June 27. If you have any pastoral concerns, please contact Pastor Thad Bitter at 503-290-6316 or reach our Elder, Clark Pederson, at 541-891-8975.

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