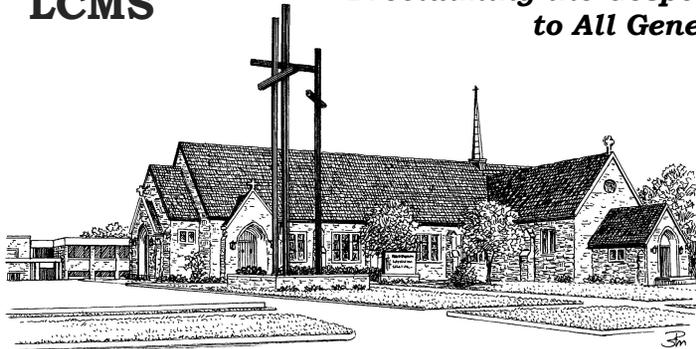


Redeemer Lutheran Church

LCMS

*“Proclaiming the Gospel
to All Generations”*



510 S. 33rd St - Lincoln, NE 68510 - 402-477-1710
www.redeemerlincoln.org

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Often a forgotten Thursday, Ascension Day should not be ignored. The day does not merely commemorate the physical fact of Jesus' ascension, it is an essential part of the Easter event. The resurrection, ascension, and promise of Pentecost are all tied together.

The disciples had just become used to having Jesus with them again when they were left staring into the sky and He was gone. They remembered His words and went back to the city to wait for the Spirit whose presence would open their eyes to recognize the risen Savior in Word and Sacrament. The Spirit would unleash their wills and tongues to “tell everyone what He has done.”

So today we trust and wait in the power of the Spirit. Though not having seen Jesus, we love Him. Until He comes again in glory, we wait for Him. Released from our fears by the Spirit, we boldly proclaim Him risen, ascended, and glorified!

Today's liturgy is Divine Service, Vespers, from Lutheran Service Book (LSB), © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Hymns are from LSB using Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted/used by permission. Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

WELCOME! We ask that all worshipers sign an attendance card. Members may hand their cards to an usher. Guests, please hand your card to the Pastor as he greets you by the door. If you are interested in membership at Redeemer, please speak to one of the Pastors.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS: Here at Redeemer, we strive to help parents as they accompany their children's walk with Christ. We encourage families of all ages to worship with us. We understand that there are times when children's attention spans falter. To assist parents, we have activity bags located in each narthex. We have a nursery with an audio-video feed located in the southeast corner of the lower level of the church. A diaper changing station is in the nursery as well as in the main narthex bathroom and the women's bathroom on the lower level. If you have any questions, please ask an usher to assist you. At 9:45AM on Sunday, we also provide Sunday School in the Family Education Center for children from preschool through high school.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS WITH HYMNS are available in the main narthex.

LISTENING DEVICES are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak to the Elder on duty (main narthex) if you need one.

THE PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: *Lord Jesus Christ, after Your resurrection You gloriously ascended into heaven. Grant us the help of Your grace, that as You promised to dwell with us always on earth, so in heart and mind we may never cease to dwell with You in heaven, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



THE PRELUDE

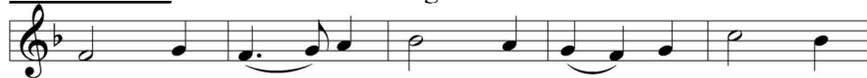
THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

(LSB, pp. 229-234)

THE HYMN: 821 – “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”
get His prom - ise: “I am with you ev - er - more?”
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”

(Please stand for the last stanza)

THE VERSICLES, RESPONSES, AND ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

(LSB, p. 229; Chanted)

P (Pastor): O Lord, open my lips,

C (Congregation): and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Alleluia.

THE PSALM (Psalm 47; Spoken responsively verse by verse)

P: Clap your hands, all peoples!

C: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P: For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

C: a great king over all the earth.

P: He subdued peoples under us,

C: and nations under our feet.

P: He chose our heritage for us,

C: the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P: For God is the King of all the earth;

C: sing praises with a psalm.

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on his holy throne.

P: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

C: For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!
(ESV)

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

THE OFFICE HYMN: 491 - “Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels”



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
△ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

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(Please stand for last stanza and then be seated)

THE FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

P: The First Reading for the Ascension of Our Lord is from the 1st chapter of Acts.

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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.

⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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.” (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

P: The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of Ephesians.

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD READING: Luke 24:44-53

P: The Third Reading is from the 24th chapter of Luke.

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

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God. (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSORY (*LSB, p. 230; Chanted*)

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

(Note: At this point in the service, the Christ Candle is extinguished. While Christ is always present with believers, the extinguishing of the candle symbolizes His visible ascension into heaven. The Christ Candle is lighted again in the services where there is a baptism.)

THE SERMON

Title: “The Power of God”

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

(Please stand)

THE VERSICLE AND RESPONSE (*Spoken*)

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

THE CANTICLE: 933 – “My Soul Rejoices”

- 1) My soul now rejoices, My spirit voices--
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor--
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely
Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love
and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord

- 2) His arm now barring, His strength declaring—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty,
the wealthy—
O Sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken To A-br’ham’s offspring
God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

(Please be seated)

THE OFFERING

THE HYMN DURING THE OFFERING: 801 – “How Great Thou Art”



- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
- 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
- 3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou
art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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(Please stand)

THE LITANY *(Spoken)*

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our synodical and district presidents, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For *(additional prayers may be inserted here)* ... let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C: Alleluia.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for individual prayer)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

All: 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.

(Please be seated)

THE HYMN: 489 – “Hail Thee, Festival Day”

Refrain
All

Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;

Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. *1st time only*

All

Ascension 1 He who was nailed to the cross, Is rul - er and
3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, The rul - er of

Lord of all peo - ple. All things cre -
earth and the heav - ens, Guard us from

at - ed on earth Sing to the glo - ry of God:
harm with - out; Cleanse us from e - vil with - in:

Refrain
All

Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;

Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign.

Ascension 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, A - dorned with the
4 Je - sus, the health of the world, Cre - a - tor of

glo - ry of blos - som; Heav - en her gate - way un -
all and re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -

bars, Fling - ing her in - crease of light:
preme, On - ly - be - got - ten of God:

5 Spirit of life and of pow'r,
Now flow in us, fount of our being,
Light that enlightens us all,
Life that in all may abide: *Refrain*

6 Praise to the giver of good!
O Lover and Author of concord,
Pour out Your balm on our days;
Order our ways in Your peace: *Refrain*

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003759 / Tune: Public domain

(Please stand)

THE SALUTATION AND RESPONSE *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

THE PRAYERS *(Spoken)*

P: Let us pray.

P: 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord God, the life of all the living, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, the repose of the blessed dead, grant us a peaceful night free from all disturbance that after a time of quiet slumber we may by Your goodness be endued in the new day with the guidance of Your Holy Spirit and enabled in peace to render thanks to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS *(LSB, p. 234; Chanted)*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING (*LSB, p. 234; Chanted*)

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER

THE THREE CHIMES

(Please be seated)

THE POSTLUDE

* * * * *

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Joel A. C. Dietrich

Organist: Joe Herl

Instrumental Ensembles Director: Holly Guilford

Trumpet Ensemble: Andrew Guilford, Holly Guilford, Joshua Guilford, and Tami Kolar

Acolytes: Kolt Fiddler & Brecken Mumaugh

Elder on Duty: Lorenz Hoffart

Greeters: Tim & Diann Davis (Main) / Valerie Coleman (West)

Head Usher: Michael Plahn

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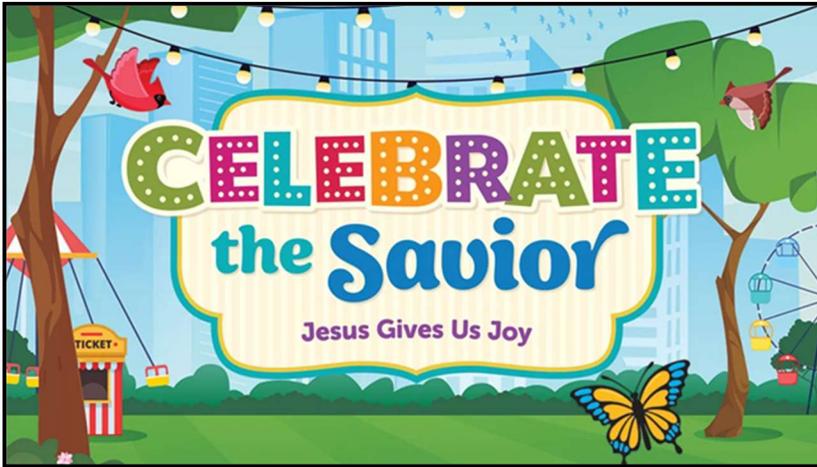
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, “*appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God*” (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues “*to do and teach*” (Acts 1:1), preaching “*repentance and forgiveness of sins*” (Luke 24:47) even “*to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the Word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon “*the church, which is his body*” (Eph. 1:22–23). In this holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “*in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 1:20).



Vacation Bible School!



June 3-7, 2024

For children age 3 thru grade 5.

Invite a friend!

What to expect at VBS? — Real Bible. Real Fun!

After the craft glue dries and the snacks are just crumbs, the real purpose of VBS is that children leave knowing their need for Jesus as their Savior. Realistic but contemporary themes provide a bridge for kids to connect to the people and life in Bible times, reinforcing that the Bible is accurate, true, and trustworthy.

REGISTRATION

Registration is NOW OPEN! You may register online at redeemerlincoln.org. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 29.**

PAPER REGISTRATION will also be available on Sundays thru May 26th. Look for "Leo the Tiger" in the main narthex!