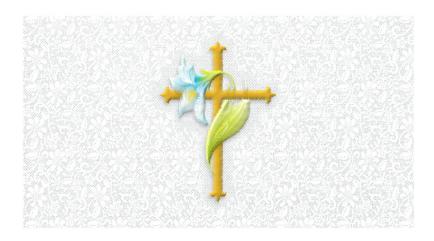
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED) May 12, 2024



The Ending Is a New Beginning

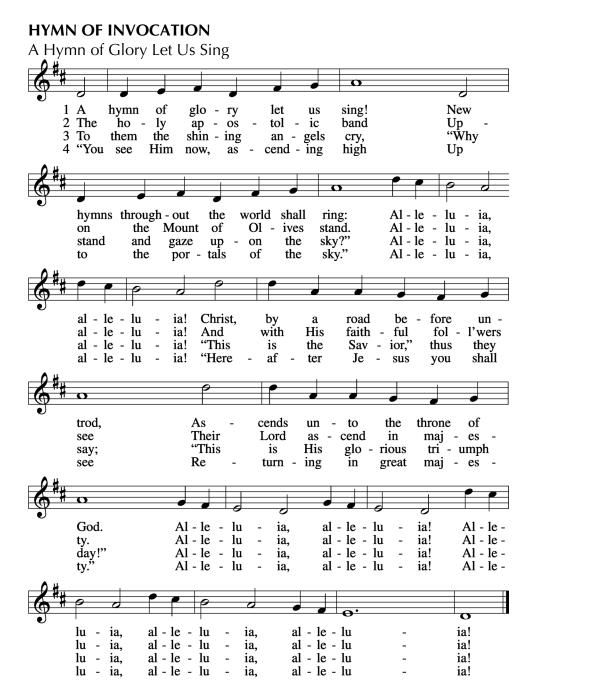
While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to God's grace we as a congregation pledge ourselves to bring all people closer to Jesus through the Word of God, worship, and caring service.

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING II



5 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!

△ 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, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Ceistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002351
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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

PREPARATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5

P: God has gone up | with a shout,* the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

C: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,* until I make your enemies your | footstool."

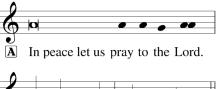
P: The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,*
"You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek."

C: The Lord is at your | right hand;*
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

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

P: God has gone up | with a shout,* the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

KYRIE LSB 168

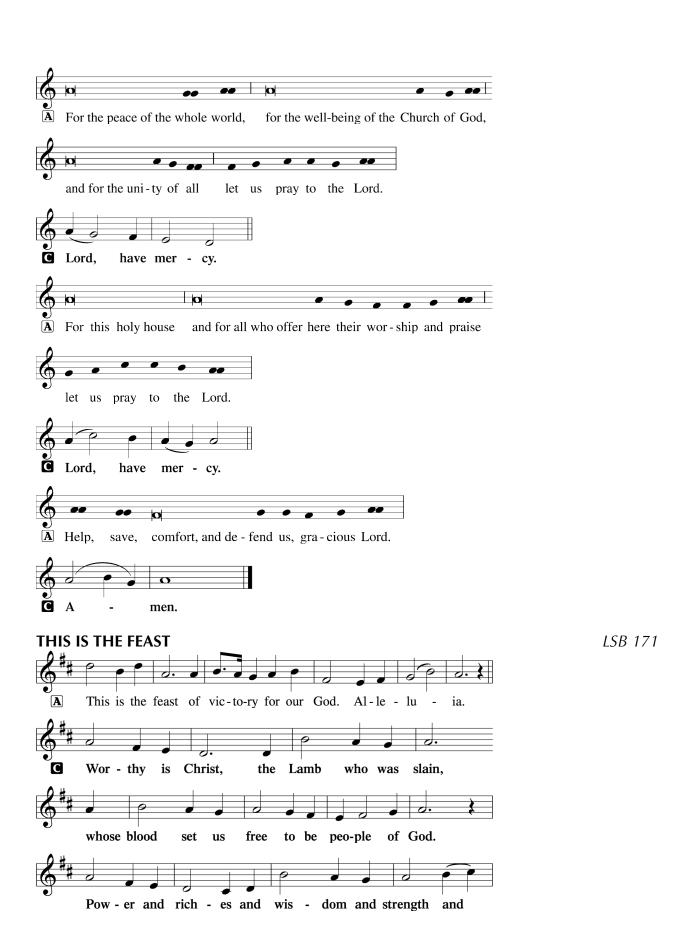


C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.







SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



- P: Let us pray.

 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Acts 1:1–11

R: The first reading for the observation of the Ascension of Our Lord is recorded for us in Acts, chapter one.

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

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

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- R: Let us recite the Gradual responsively:
- R: Christ has risen from the dead.
- C: [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.
- R: He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C: he has put all things under his feet.

EPISTLE Ephesians 1:15–23

R: The epistle reading is recorded for us in Ephesians, chapter one.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 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, and what is the

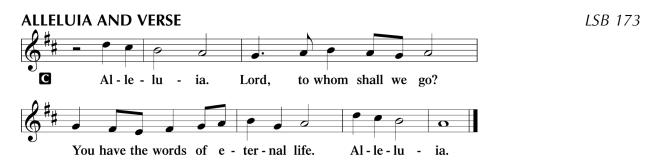
immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

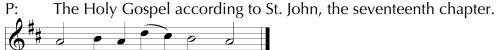
C: Thanks be to God.

Glo-ry to You,

R: Please stand to sing the Alleluia and Verse.



HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11–19



O Lord.

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.





SERMON "Jesus Prays for Us in The Certainty of His Ascension!" Rev. Edward R. Huber

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

C: 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

→ everlasting. Amen.

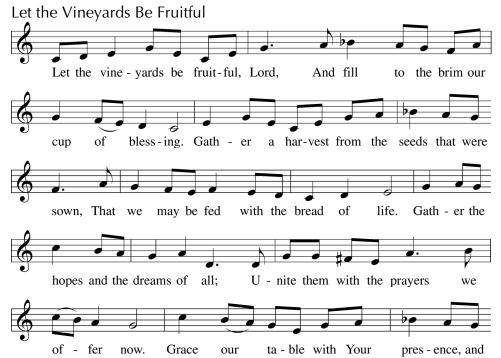
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P: Father of glory, since Your Son has gone up with a shout and the sound of a trumpet, open our lips to sing praises to our King and live confidently in His victory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Father of glory, Your Son has commanded us to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Bless the proclamation of Your Church, that many may believe, be baptized and be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Father of glory, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to look forward in the hope to which You have called us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Father of glory, You put all things under the feet of Your incarnate Son when You seated Him in power at Your right hand. Bless Joseph, our president, Westley, our governor, and all who make, administer and enforce our laws. Let the Gospel have free course among us and be preached to the joy and edification of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Father of glory, You have provided us with the gift of family. Bless those who have shown us a mother's love and nurtured our lives from childhood. Bless and protect all mothers with child, all those who have suffered miscarriage or the death of a child, and all those who have yearned for a child and lived with the pain of this unfulfilled longing. Bless also those for whom the thought of mothers, children, and families carries feelings of pain, brokenness, or emptiness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.

- P: Father of glory, You have raised Your Son from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places. Let His blessing rest upon ___ and all who suffer or grieve, that they may be sustained in their trials and granted His comfort and healing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Father of glory, You gave Your incarnate Son to the Church as head over all things. Enliven us by the Holy Communion of His body and blood to live in Him as His Body, the Church, and the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

OFFERING



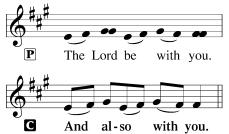


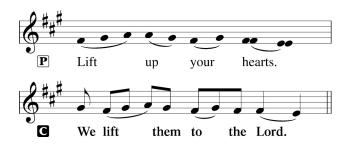


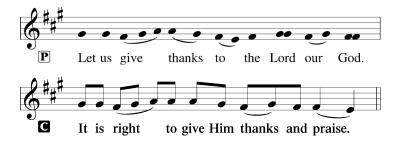
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

LSB 177







P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS LSB 178



PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

LSB 178

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

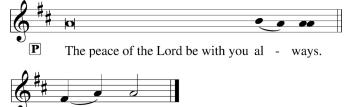
PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

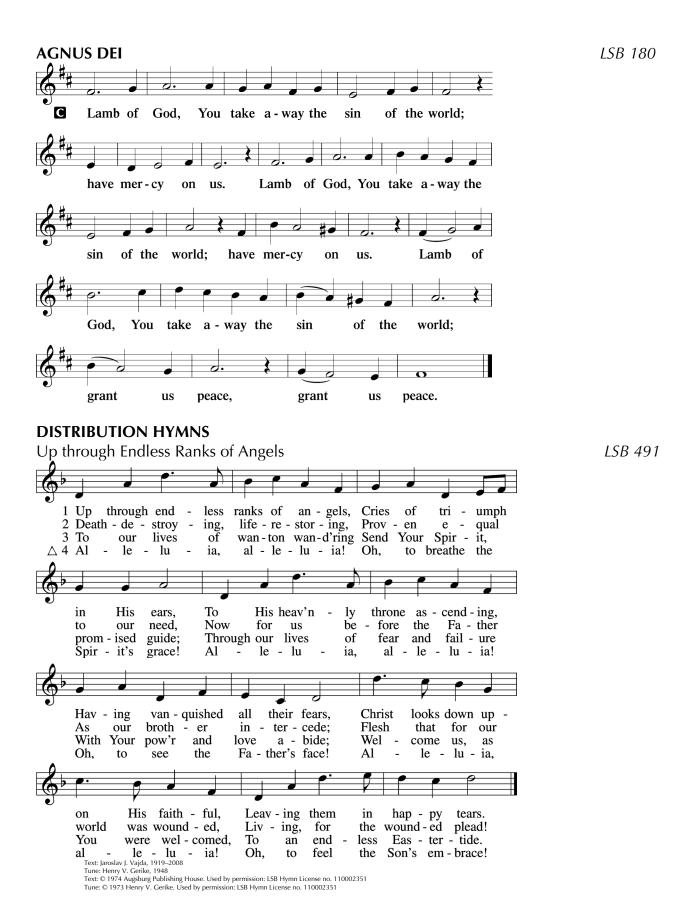
P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

men.

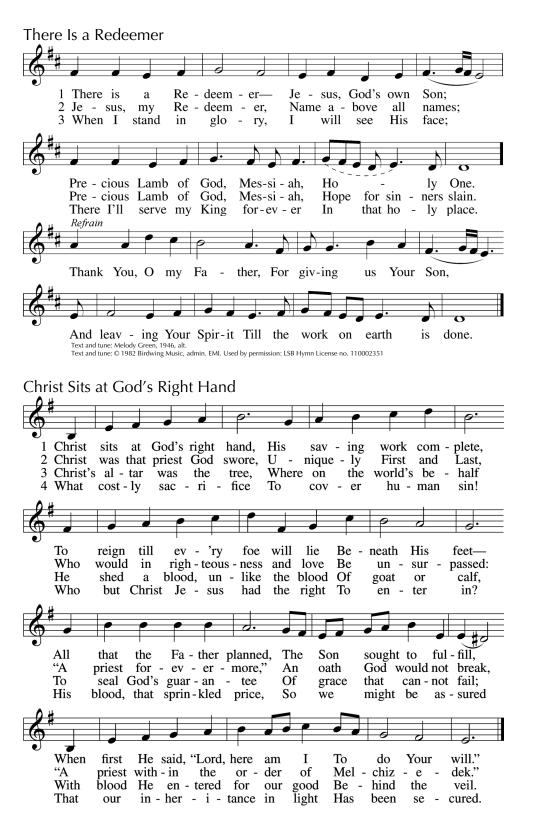
PAX DOMINI LSB 180







LSB 564



5 Then let us now draw near, Washed in that precious flood And enter the Most Holy Place By Jesus' blood. From hearts that are sincere, Let tongues our hope profess, And trust anew God's faithful grace That we confess.

 \triangle 6 All praise to Christ we bring, Our Lord who intercedes, Our great High Priest enthroned above Who knows our needs; And to the Father sing Our songs of thankful praise, Who with the Spirit reigns in love

For endless days.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Hebrew
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DISMISSAL



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

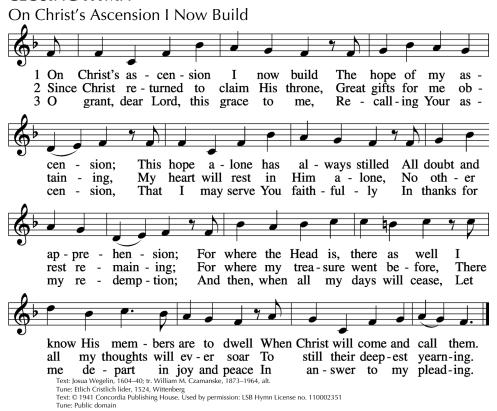
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN



SILENT PRAYER

DISMISSAL

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of the Lord. Amen.

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