



**Ascension**  
Lutheran Church



**May 12, 2024**

# Ascension Lutheran Church

## *Resurrection Reality: Jesus' Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

### **Welcome**

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we—the pastor and members of Ascension. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection Jesus won forgiveness for all. God teaches these truths in the Bible—God's complete plan for your salvation and his guidebook for your life. Ascension greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

### **For Your Convenience**

Restrooms are located near the entrance of the building. If your child becomes restless, that's okay! There is a speaker equipped children's area also near the entrance.

### **Worship at Ascension**

The order of service is printed in this worship folder. Many of the elements in this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Ascension values your participation in the service. Congregational responses are printed in **bold** and marked with a "C:".

### **Explanation of Today's Theme:**

Conventional wisdom would say if Christ has ascended into heaven, he is further away from his followers than when he was visibly on earth. The resurrection reality is that it is the other way around. Now that Christ has ascended, he is closer than ever. The living and ascended Savior has reassumed full use of all his divine power. So, if you need Christ's help, you don't need to hunt for him in Galilee. You call to him in prayer, wherever you are, whenever you want, and he hears and acts. Do you want to hear Jesus speak? You don't need to chase him down. Open his Word and listen to his powerful, life-giving voice. Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. Therefore, the Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. Christians will observe it until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

### **Serving in Worship**

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

Cantor: Lori Pike

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# Opening Hymn

## *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build* CW #173



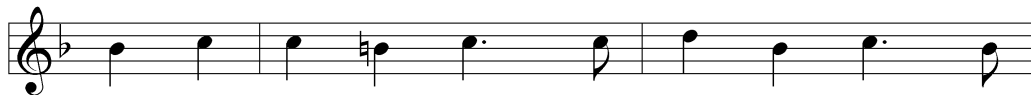
1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of  
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, Great gifts for  
3 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing



my as - cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled  
me ob - tain - ing, My heart shall rest in him a - lone,  
your as - cen - sion, That I may serve you faith - ful - ly,



All doubt and ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the  
No oth - er rest re - main - ing, For where my  
A - dorn - ing your re - demp - tion; And then, when



head is, there as well I know his mem - bers  
treasure went be - fore, There all my thoughts shall  
all my days will cease, Let me de - part in



are to dwell When Christ shall come and call them.  
ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.  
joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

*Stand*

## Opening Words

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

C: **Amen.**

## Dialogue for the Ascension

P: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C: **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.** *Psalm 148:1-2*

P: How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C: **He has set his glory above the heavens.** *Psalm 8:1*

P: For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C: **He is exalted far above all gods.** *Psalm 97:9*

P: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

C: **God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.** *Psalm 47:5,8*

P: The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

C: **He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.** *Psalm 99:1*

P: The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

C: **A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.** *Psalm 45:6*

P: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

C: **His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.** *Psalm 148:13*

## Hymn

## *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise* CW #175 (Verses 1-3)



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for  
heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered  
loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!  
to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** Lord Jesus, King of glory, 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.

**C:** Amen.

*Be seated*

## THE WORD

### First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

*Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.*

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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>Then they gathered around him and 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.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47

*Refrain*

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.

Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone* \*

### *Refrain*

Clap your hands, all you nations;<sup>\*</sup>  
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,<sup>\*</sup>  
the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations;<sup>\*</sup>  
God is seated on his holy throne.

### *Refrain*

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,<sup>\*</sup>  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;<sup>\*</sup>  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth,<sup>\*</sup>  
sing to him a psalm of praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son<sup>\*</sup>  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,<sup>\*</sup>  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### *Refrain*

## Second Reading

Ephesians 4:7-16

*St. Paul explains the power and purpose of Christ's ascension. Jesus left this world for our good. He ascended to give gifts to his people and build up his Church.*

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**P:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

*The risen Savior ascended, and his disciples responded with joyful worship.*

<sup>44</sup>He said to them, “This is what I told 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.”

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

# A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing CW #171



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through -  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up - on the  
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high Up to the  
 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un -  
 And with his fol - low - ers they see Their Lord -  
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his  
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see Re - turn - ing  
 Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we Shall praise your



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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!

Live With Your Eyes to the Skies



*Stand*

**Confession of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed  
*The Second Article & Explanation*

**C: I believe 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 there, he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*Be seated*

## Offering & Connect

Guests, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at Ascension. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the gospel.



We would really appreciate it if you let us know that you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connect Card" you see on the back of the seat in front of you. Either put it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor.

*Stand*

## Litany for Jesus' Ascension

- P: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power and glory. You reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.
- C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**
- P: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all people.
- C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**
- P: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's accusations. Ask the Father for his rich gifts in our lives.
- C: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**
- P: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.
- C: You are our Lord and King.**

*Special intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

**C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

P: You have taught us to pray:

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

P: 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 give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Closing Hymn

*Christ High-Ascended*  
CW #558



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed,  
2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing,  
3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion,  
4 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing,  
5 As at his part - ing, joy shall ban - ish griev - ing,



Throned and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed,  
Who on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing,  
Lives now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion;  
Christ with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing,  
Faith in his pres - ence strength - en our be - liev - ing;



Death's dread do - min - ion fi - nal - ly de -  
Sends forth his ser - vants, still in faith con -  
To win dis - ci - ples out of ev - 'ry  
Christ to all a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly  
Filled with his Spir - it, love and pow'r re -



feat - ed— We are his wit - ness - es.  
fess - ing— We are his wit - ness - es.  
na - tion, We are his wit - ness - es.  
reign - ing— We are his wit - ness - es.  
ceiv - ing, We are his wit - ness - es.

# Announcements

## **Happy Mother's Day!**

A mother who loves her God and lives her faith is a blessing to her children. May God bless the women of this congregation and in all his Church as they seek to share the love of Jesus with the next generation.

## **Support CLHS**

We are blessed to have a local Lutheran high school, California Lutheran High School, in Wildomar for SoCal area students, as well as international students from around the world, to grow in their faith and knowledge. You can help support CLHS as they shape tomorrow's Christian leaders by donating on their website: [clhsonline.net](http://clhsonline.net).

## **Mission Meeting**

Everyone is invited to meet with our Mission Counselor on Wednesday, May 15th, here at Ascension. The time will be announced as soon as it is known. We'll discuss a variety of topics about our mission in Escondido and our next steps forward.

## **MLC Matching Grants**

From now through July 15th, Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, is offering a matching grant (up to \$1450) for students that receive financial support from their local congregation. We have one student at MLC, Hans Boeder, that can benefit from this. If you would like to donate toward this effort, please make a specially-marked gift to Ascension.

## **Good Shepherd Bible Camp**

Each July, California and Arizona 4th-10th graders are invited to the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains to enjoy a week of outdoor adventure, Christian friendship, and God's Word. This year's camp takes place from July 7-13th with the theme "Stand Firm" based on 1 Cor. 16:13. If you would like more information about GSBC, go to: [goodshepherdbiblecamp.com](http://goodshepherdbiblecamp.com).

## **New Hymnal**

Starting in June, we will switch to using the newer Christian Worship hymnal that was released in 2021. Our worship and music will continue to be printed in the bulletin as usual, but the new hymnals will be available in the pews as well.



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