



Ascension Observed

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

May 16, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to Christ Lutheran. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

- If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service. We would be happy to assist you.
- **Bathrooms** are located in the main hall. A changing table is located in the women's restroom.
- A live feed of worship is located in the library, to the right as you exit.
- We encourage children to worship with their family but if a break is needed a children's room is located through the door just beyond the kitchen.
- If you have a **prayer request** you would like included in the Prayer of the Church, there is a clipboard with paper at the entry to the sanctuary, where you can note your request.

GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK

The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth Today we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he departed from his disciples and was enthroned in glory in heaven where he rules over all things as our Lord and King. Jesus's triumph guarantees that he will always keep his Word.

Forty days ago, the darkness of Lent was dispelled by the light of Easter. For forty days, the Church has cried, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Our Easter joy is not diminished by Jesus' removing his visible presence from among us. Though his people here on earth no longer see him with our own eyes, Jesus is still with us; just as he promised not to leave his disciples alone but be with them always to the very end of the age. God continues to keep his promise to be present among his Church by pouring out his Holy Spirit on us through his Holy Gospel. He will continue to do this until he returns at the end to take us to be with him in heaven where we will share in his glory.

DIVINE SERVICE II

OPENING HYMN

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise | CW 175



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
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



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
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious
vail - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



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.
lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain
Partners in your endless reign,
There your face unclouded view,
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.
Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS (77 77) Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221, adapt.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

please stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

LORD, HAVE MERCY - *Kyrie*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast of Victory | **CW 265**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved.
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 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE (Irregular with Refrain) Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923. © 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert.
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THE WORD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M 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.

be seated

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

The ascension of Jesus recalled by Luke.

I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ While he was^[a] with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "Which," he said, "you have heard me speak about; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 47 (p.85)

Refrain

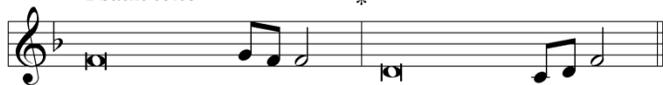


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
How awesome is the LORD Most High,
the great King over all the earth!
God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy 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,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

God has appointed Jesus head over the Church.

¹⁵This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,^[a] would give you the

Spirit^[b] of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

²⁰ He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— ²¹ far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given,^[c] not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And **he subjected everything under his feet^[d]** and appointed him^[e] as head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 28:20

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.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the mes - sage is heard through the

Word of Christ. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

please stand

M: The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24:

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ He told 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, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He also said to them, “This is what is written:^[a] The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for^[b] forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of

these things. ⁴⁹ And look, I am sending you ^[c] what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city ^[d] until you are empowered ^[e] from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² After worshiping him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they were continually in the temple praising God. ^[f]

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Crown Him with Many Crowns | **CW 341**



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his
 2 Crown him the Lord of love— Be - hold his hands and
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the
 4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a -



throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All
 side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In
 grave And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For
 bove; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The



mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and
 beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the
 those he came to save. His glo - ries now we
 won - drous name of Love. Crown him with man - y



sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him
 sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward
 sing Who died and rose on high, Who died e -
 crowns As thrones be - fore him fall; Crown him, ye



as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
 kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

Stand

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.

be seated

OFFERING

The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

please stand

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in*

everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite,
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage -
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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 ☩ 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.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

C: Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us your peace. A - men.

be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

please stand

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

**O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assure:
 For I have seen your promised**

**Incarinate, saving Word -
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The Brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: 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

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 as -
"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!

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

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



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Pastor Joshua Hanson

WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

*"Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it."*

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

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