



**Ascension Day Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
508 Bloom Street
Red Bud, Illinois**

May 21, 2020

7 p.m.

WELCOME! God has gathered us together to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has ascended bodily into heaven following His resurrection from the dead. He now rules the world until He returns in glory at the end of time.

The Festival Order of Worship

Prelude: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

arranged by Valerie Floeter

The Ringing of the Bells calls us to reverent worship.

The Call to Worship:

Pastor: People, why do you stand looking into heaven?

Congregation: We are seeking Jesus, who has ascended into heaven. Our Lord has left us.

P: This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.

C: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Hallelujah!

Processional 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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Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father who sent Jesus to be our Savior;

C: All praise to God the Father. Amen.

P: In the name of the Son who has risen from the dead and returned triumphantly into heaven;

C: All praise to God the Son. Amen.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit who unites us to Christ through faith;

C: All praise to God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Confession and God's Forgiveness:

P: Lord God, King of all the earth, You reign over the nations,

C: but we have not obeyed Your commands.

P: You have chosen a heritage for us,

C: but we have rejected Your gifts and served other gods.

ALL: Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord. Forgive our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for us all.

P: God, our Heavenly Father, has heard our cry for mercy. He has sent His only Son into the world that we might be forgiven. 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. Sing praises to God! We are forgiven! Amen.

Introit:

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

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: 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!

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.

The Collect of the Day:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. **C: Heavenly Father, although Your Son has ascended into heaven, grant that we may be ever mindful of His presence here with us in Word and Sacrament; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: 489 “Hail Thee, Festival Day” (*Ascension refrain & verses*)

(*The congregation will sing the Ascension refrain twice before the first stanza and once after each stanza. A soloist will sing the stanzas.*)



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



Day when our Lord was raised, Break - ing the king - dom of death. death.
Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.
Day when the Ho - ly Ghost Shone in the world with His grace. grace.

The First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. ³To them He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God.

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

⁶So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

Verse of Praise: (LSB 821 “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”)

**Al-le-lu-ia! Sing to Je-sus; His the scep-ter, His the throne;
Al-le-lu-ia! His the tri-umph, His the vic-to-ry a-lone.
Hark! The songs of peace-ful Zion Thun-der like a might-y flood:
“Je-sus out of ev’-ry na-tion Has re-deem-ed us by His blood.”**

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Verse of Joy:

**Al-le-lu-ia! Not as or-phans Are we left in sor-row now,
Al-le-lu-ia! He is near us; Faith be-lieves, nor ques-tions how.
Though the cloud from sight re-ceived Him When the for-ty days were o’er.
Shall our hearts for-get His pro-mise: “I am with you ever-more?”**

The Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*Luke 24:44-53 is read.*)

⁴⁴Then Jesus 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.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all

nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

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

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Following the Gospel reading the Paschal candle is extinguished to signify the removal of Jesus Christ’s visible presence from the world.)

The Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children’s Message Song:

**Chil-dren of the heav’n-ly Fa-ther Safe-ly in His bos-om ga-ther;
Nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en Such a ref-uge e’er was giv-en.**

**Thouth He giv-eth or He tak-eth, God His chil-dren ne’er for-sak-eth;
His the lov-ing pur-pose sole-ly To pre-serve them pure and ho-ly.**

Sermon Hymn: 493 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
 4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



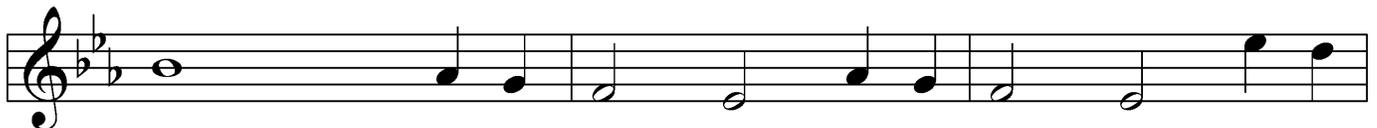
hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
 on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
 stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



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

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!

Sermon: “The Acts of Easter: Be My Witnesses” Acts 1:1-11

The Hymn of Response:

**Al-le-lu-ia! King e-ter-nal, Lord om-nip-o-tent we own;
Al-le-lu-ia! Born of Mar-y, Earth Your foot-stool, heav’n Your throne.
As with-in the veil You en-tered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest.
Here on earth both priest and vic-tim In the eu-cha-ris-tic feast.**

The Prayers and The Lord’s Prayer:

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Ascended Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant our supplication. *Brief silence*

That the Lord may grant us all things in Christ so we may be sustained in trial, strengthened in weakness and delivered from trouble, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Church of Christ may flourish and the good news of Christ crucified, risen and ascended would be proclaimed to all the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord may richly supply us with faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out; and that we may hear, believe and live out this Gospel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the nations of the earth may seek peace; and that the leaders of our country may pursue justice, righteousness and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the pandemic may come to an end, and that livelihood and common life may resume as soon as possible, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That all who are afflicted with sickness or injury may be strengthened in illness and comforted in adversity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the faithful may not fret what we do not know but rejoice in Christ, our Savior, and live in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord may grant more favorable weather to those seeking to finishing this planting season, that their labors be safe, their equipment dependable and their strength sufficient for the task at hand, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may be as generous in our tithes and offerings as the Lord is in giving us His gifts, and that we may support the poor and those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may know the Lord's presence in the means of His grace, hearing His Word, receiving His absolution and feasting at His table with faith and joy in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may remember the saints of old, who contended for the Lord in their own day; and that we may join them at last in the marriage feast of the Lamb without end, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

All these things and whatever else we need, we ask You to grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us all to pray, **Our Father who art in heaven...forever and ever. Amen.**

The Benediction:

P: The light of Jesus Christ has departed from our sight.

C: He has ascended into heaven to return at the end of time.

P: We know that through faith Jesus' light is still with us.

C: He leads us and gives us the hope of eternal life with Him.

P: The blessing of our almighty God, the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit be and abide with you always.

C: Our Triune God is with us and we are with Him from now into eternity. Amen.

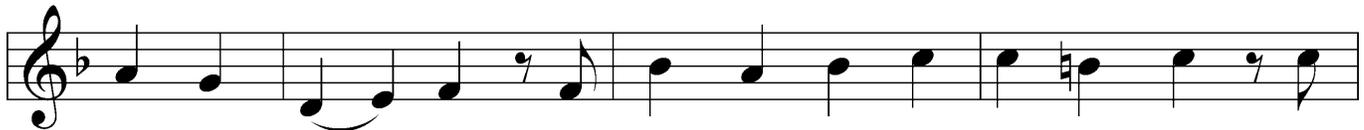
The Closing Hymn: 492 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”



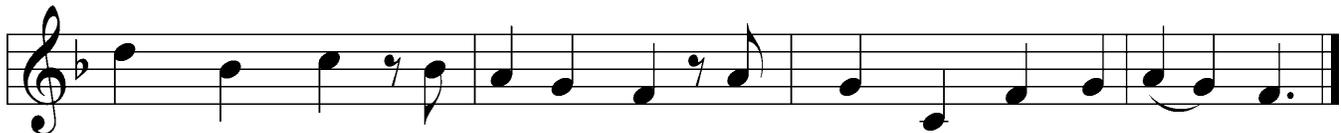
1 On Christ’s as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

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Postlude: “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” *arranged by J. Wayne Kerr*

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Serving Us in Worship This Evening

Preacher: Pastor Mark Nebel Liturgist: Pastor Russell Koen

Pianist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak Video: Eric and Jennifer Fritsche

Flowers: Kathy Grohmann and Stephanie Liefer Paraments; Carol Turner

IF YOU HAVE a graduate in your family from high school, college or university, please call the church office so that we can include that name in our graduation recognitions this month and in the June Epistle. Thank you!

THE GRADUATION of our 18 8th grade students will be Friday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.