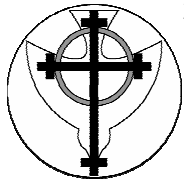


Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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The Ascension of Our Lord

1 May Anno ✠ Domini 2008

Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this evening for Divine Service. Rejoice, for tonight we celebrate our Lord's glorious Ascension into heaven, by which He has exalted and honored our human nature and rules over all things for our benefit. His Ascension does not mean that He is now absent, for He continues to come to us here in this place to give us His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace—His Holy Word and Sacraments. It is through these that the Ascended Lord strengthens and preserves His Christian Church on earth until He returns in glory on the Last Day. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts. Please take the time to fill out the **Record of Fellowship form** that is in the pew. The Lord be with us in Divine Service this evening!

Holy Communion Practice

- The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. In preparation for receiving this blessed Sacrament, you may refer to Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329-330 in *LSB*.
- Communicants at this altar are to be in full confessional fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS are asked, out of love and Christian responsibility, to refrain from partaking with us this morning. If you have any questions regarding Holy Communion, you are invited and encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after the Service.
- See Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.



“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’” (Acts 1:9-11)

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LSB DIVINE SERVICE 1, PAGE 151

(The Introit, Collect of the Day, Gradual, and Scriptures are on bulletin insert)

The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayer

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

(At the conclusion of the Ringing of the Bells, the congregation stands and faces the processional cross for the Procession. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)

The Processional Hymn: 493 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

The Confession and Absolution (p. 151)

Distribution Hymns

622 “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

The Post-Communion Canticle: **Nunc Dimittis** (p. 165)

The Post-Communion Collect (p. 166)

The Benediction (p. 166)

The Recessional Hymn: 821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

The Postlude

Soli Deo Gloria!

From Martin Luther’s Sermon for Ascension Day

This, then, is the power He causes to be preached, that all who believe in Him are released from captivity. I believe in Him by Whom sin, death, and all things that afflict us, were led captive. It is a pleasing discourse, and full of comfort, when we are told that death is taken away and slain, so that it is no longer felt. However, it affords pleasure and comfort only to those who believe it. You will not find release from captivity in your works, fastings, prayers, castigations, tonsures, and gowns, and whatever more things you may do; but only in the place where Christ sits, whither He ascended and whither He led captivity with Him. Hence, he who would be freed from sin and delivered from Satan and death, must come thither where Christ is. Now, where is He? He is here with us, and for this purpose did He sit down in heaven, that He might be near unto us. Thus, we are with Him up there and He is with us down here. Through the Word He comes down and through faith we ascend up.

So, we see everywhere in the Scriptures that faith is such an unspeakably great thing that we can never preach about it sufficiently nor reach it with words. It cannot be heard and seen, therefore it must be believed. Such is the nature of faith that it feels nothing at all, but merely follows the words which it hears, and clings to them. If you believe, you have; if you believe not, you have not. In this wise must we understand this article of faith, that Christ is ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God.

P O most holy and merciful God, on this day Your Son ascended to the heavens where He intercedes for us. Give us the confidence that whatever we ask in His name and according to His will, shall be granted. As He has led the way into our heavenly fatherland, increase our hope.

C You have led captivity captive.

P You have not left us without comfort and hope. Consider our woes and fears; be not far from us in our times of trial. Be with the lonely, the forsaken, and the distressed. Prepare us to be watchful, to be in prayer, longing for our Lord's return in like manner as He has gone up. For you live and reign, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Offering is gathered for the Lord's work (p. 159)

The Offertory (pp. 159-160)

The Service of the Sacrament

(Please read the statement regarding Holy Communion on the back of the bulletin)

The Preface and Proper Preface (pp. 160-161)

The Sanctus (p. 161)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (p. 161)

The Words of Our Lord (p. 162)

The Proclamation of Christ (p. 162)

The Lord's Prayer (pp. 162-163)

The Pax Domini (p. 163)

The Agnus Dei (P. 163)

Communicants are invited to pray the following:

Before receiving the Sacrament:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 47:1-2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11



Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, is | to be feared,*

a great king over | all the earth.

God has gone up | with a shout,*

the Lord with the sound of a | trumpet.

God reigns over the | nations;*

God sits on his | holy throne.

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.

Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

The Kyrie (pp. 152-153)

The Hymn of Praise: "This is the Feast" (p. 155)

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 156)

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.

The Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:5-15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck

the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

The Gradual is omitted during Easter

The Second Reading

Acts 1:1-11

¹In 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.”

The Alleluia and Verse (Common – p. 156)

The Holy Gospel

Mark 16:14-20

¹⁴Afterward [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

The Hymn of the Day: 491 “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

The Sermon: “He Sat Down At the Right Hand of God” (Mark 16:19)

The Nicene Creed (p. 158)

The Prayer of the Church

- P** O Lord God, heavenly Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son into our world, in which He laid aside His glory so that He might live our life and suffer our death. We thank You that in His ascension we can rejoice at the revelation of Your glory.
- C** **God is gone up with a shout.**
- P** We praise You for the life of grace and truth which He lived among us. Though the world is blind to Your glory, reveal Yourself, O God, through the faithful administration of Word and Sacraments, that every knee may bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, that those who sit in darkness may one day join in the shout of triumph at the coming again of our Lord.
- C** **The Lord has gone up with the sound of a trumpet.**
- P** In the midst of strife and conflict, wars and rumors of wars, remind us of your Lordship and triumph over all the enemies of Your people. Call to faithfulness the leaders of the earth, and bless those who govern. Thwart those who would hinder Your reign among all peoples. Deliver us from greed, self-centeredness, and pride. Grant us that sense of priorities that we may seek those things which are above.
- C** **You have ascended on high.**