

# Ascension of Our Lord

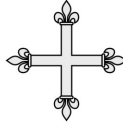
May 16, 2021, 9:00 am



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School  
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

[www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us) | 301-588-4363

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*



## Gathering

### Prelude

Voluntary on "Salve Festa Dies"

arr. Robert Lind (b. 1942)

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination may follow.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Entrance Hymn

ELW 394

Please sing the verses designated for Ascension. Verse 2,4 and 6 are on the next page.

*Refrain*



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.



<i>Easter</i>	1	All	the	fair	beau - ty	of	earth	from the
<i>Ascension</i>	1	He	who	was	nailed	to	the cross	is . .
<i>Pentecost</i>	1	Bright	and	in	like - ness	of	fire,	on . .
	3	God	the	Al -	might - y,	the	Lord,	the . .
	5	Spir -	it	of	life	and	of pow'r,	now . .



death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good  
 rul - er and Lord of all peo - ple. All things cre -  
 those who a - wait his ap - pear - ing, he whom the  
 rul - er of earth and the heav - ens, guard us from  
 flow in us, fount of our be - ing, light that en -



*Refrain*

gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns:  
 at - ed on earth sing to the glo - ry of God:  
 Lord had fore - told sud - den - ly, swift - ly de - scends:  
 harm with - out; cleanse us from e - vil with - in:  
 light - ens us all, life that in all may a - bide:

*Easter* 2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of  
*Ascension* 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the  
*Pentecost* 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the  
4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our  
6 Praise to the giv - er of good! O Lov - er and

life and cre - a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of  
glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -  
glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -  
minds, great re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -  
Au - thor of con - cord, pour out your balm on our

death, new life you give to us all:  
bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:  
bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:  
preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God:  
days; or - der our ways in your peace:

*Refrain*

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

## Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Canticle of Praise

*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 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - 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.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Musical Reflection

Fantasy on "Hyfrydol," *Augsburg Bell Choir*

arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)



# Word

## First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 47

*The Choir sings the psalm set to Anglican Chant by Thomas Tertius Noble.*

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- <sup>2</sup> For the Lord Most High is to be feared:  
he is the great king over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.
- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill
- <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God sits upon his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- <sup>10</sup> The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
and he is highly exalted.

## Second Reading

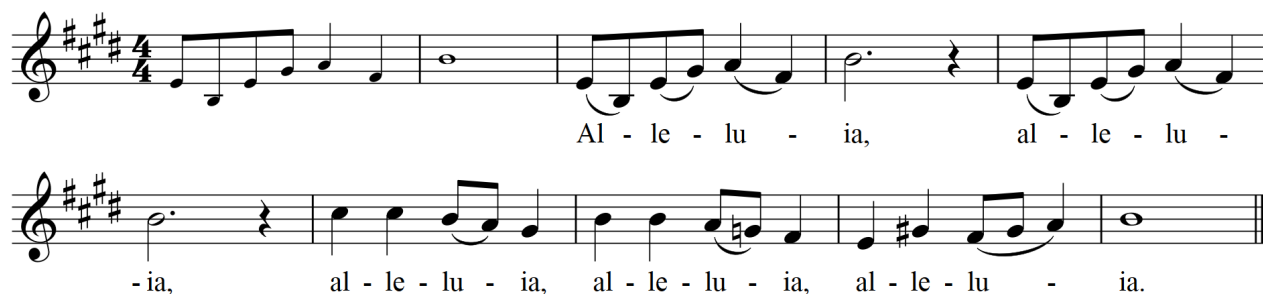
Ephesians 1:15-23

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



*Choir* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Choir* Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the end of the age.  
(Matt. 28:19, 20)

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Miller



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
 5 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  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

God of life

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

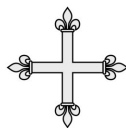
**Amen.**

## Peace

The risen Christ stood among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you."

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**



# Thanksgiving

## Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintlukegive.us](http://saintlukegive.us) or on the Give Plus app.  
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

### *Music at the offering*

King of all ages, throned on high,  
Yet savior too of those with faith,  
Death at your onslaught died in fear  
And grace triumphant rules supreme.

Risen from death, the heav'nly Christ  
Receives from God the Father's hand  
Power over all created things:  
A gift he could not know on earth.

Then at your coming on the clouds  
With shining strength to be our judge,  
Cancel the debt we owe you still,  
Give back the glory we have lost.

Glory to you, O Christ our Lord,  
Exalted far beyond our sight,  
Reigning in bliss for evermore,  
With Father and with Paraclete. Amen.

King of all ages, throned on high  
Text: 10<sup>th</sup>-cent. Latin, tr. Mount Saint Bernard Abbey  
Music: Paul Isom (b. 1959)

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Everlasting God, the whole universe sings a new song of praise; the rivers clap their hands, the hills ring out for joy. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, we offer to you these gifts, signs of your love you have first given us. Use these gifts and each of us to raise our voices and cry out for justice, proclaiming resurrection joy wherever your Spirit leads us. In Jesus' name we boldly pray. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos  
Santificado sea tu Nombre  
Venga a nosotros tu Reino  
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden  
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria  
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

# Sending

## Blessing

God bless you with the knowledge that Jesus, God's only Son has ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you.

**Amen.**

Be lifted up and guided by Christ's intercession at God's right hand.

**Amen.**

At Christ's promised return, may you be found blameless and welcomed into the joys of God's eternal kingdom.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

ELW 836



1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

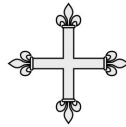
## Postlude

from *L'Ascension*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Transports de joie d'une âme devant la gloire du Christ qui est la sienne

*(Outburst of joy from a soul before the Glory of Christ which is its own glory)*



## WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members from Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *Soprano*

Tacy Downing, *Alto*

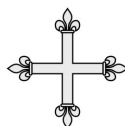
Ralph Watkins, *Tenor*

Ron Hebensperger, *Bass*

Member from Augsburg Bell Choir

Sarah Butchko  
Emma Holmquist  
Brock Butchko  
Ani Constantian

Emi Carlsperger  
Karli Fisher  
Jonah Webb



TODAY WE CELEBRATE a major church festival, the Ascension of Our Lord. Forty days after Easter marks this event, which means it always falls on a Thursday. In order to commemorate this major day with a wider assembly, many congregations lift it up on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, which we do today. The promise of Christ's resurrection and ascension reminds us of the awesome breadth and depth of God's love, a love deeper than we can imagine. The Paschal Candle is extinguished today after the reading of the Gospel. It will be returned to its place by the baptismal font and will be lighted for baptisms and funerals.

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God by Ruth Moorman in remembrance of Art Moorman on the anniversary of his birth.

THANK YOU thank you, thank you! We extend our deepest appreciation to the many people at Saint Luke who dedicated their time this last year to help teach, coordinate, lead, and/or provide guidance to our faith formation classes. Many dedicated their time to plant seeds of faith in Saint Luke's young people or foster growth of that faith through adult discussions and Bible studies.

Thank you to Liz Garifo, Carol Jacobson, Siah Annand, Melissa Groen, Kristin Spenser, Jacky Martin, Shernette Hall, Annika Dodrill, Ron Hebensperger, Willard Unkenholz, Sarah Pfanz, Pastor Zawistoski, Deacon Warfield, Jonathan Hernandez, Jeff Groen, Eleanor Abarno, Pastor Morales, Pastor Miller, and Pastor Nuss.

**REMINDER:**  
**SAINT LUKE ANNUAL MEETING**  
**ONLINE**  
**TODAY**  
**Sunday, May 16, 11:30 a.m.**

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