

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

Festival of Ascension

May 12, 2024

## **KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

### *Service of Preparation*

#### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

*Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.*

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.  
Amen.

#### **HYMN**

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* | #388

*Kindergarten: v. 1-3*

**Congregation: v.4-6**

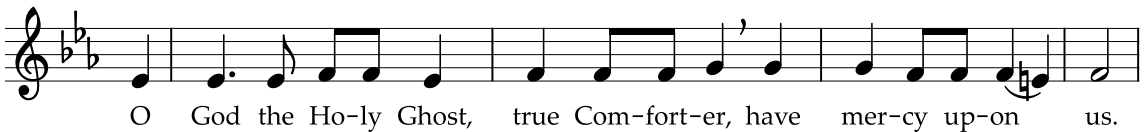
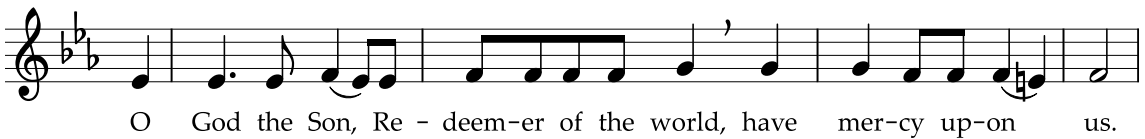
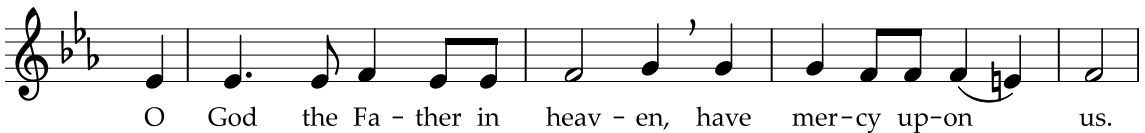
## CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word; to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## HYMN

*Kyrie*



## ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

## HYMN

*Gloria*

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -  
friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is  
end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And  
peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

# Service of the Word

*Forty days after his resurrection Jesus gathered his disciples on a hillside in Galilee. After final instructions, he left this world with his visible presence and returned to his native heaven as victor. There, he rules as King of heaven and earth. That's good news for those who worry this world is falling apart beyond repair.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The English churchman, Bede the Venerable, is the author of "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing." He spoke this prayer before he died on May 26, A.D. 735—which was Ascension Day that year.*

P: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Don't leave us alone, we pray, but give us the Spirit of truth so 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. Amen.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 4:7–16

*After his ascension, Jesus gives gifts to his people to build us up in doing works of service.*

<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.

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44–53

*God's sweeping plan of redemption, carried out over thousands of years, has three parts: the Christ must suffer, he must rise from the dead, and forgiveness must be preached to all nations. The first two parts are complete. The third is currently underway.*

<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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN

*Alleluia! Let Praises Ring | #6*

*Jesus' ascension isn't just that he floated away. The disciples saw Jesus go on the clouds of heaven into the presence of God to sit on his throne. This is the beginning of his work on our behalf.*

<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."

*Write down at least one reason to praise God (i.e., one of his attributes or characteristics).*

*Write down at least one sin to confess (actions, words, thoughts, desires).*

*Write down at least one reason to thank God for a good thing he has done in your life.*

*Write down two things to pray about for yourself.*

*Write down two things to pray about for other people.*

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**P:** Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C:** **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **HYMN**

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | #389: v. 1*



# Service of Thanksgiving

## OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at [www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give](http://www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give).



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**

## HYMN

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King* | #376

## PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Almighty God, that you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

## HYMN

*On My Heart Imprint Thine Image* | #593

## CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

*Meditate on how Psalm 47 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.*

**Preacher**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Organist (Sunday)** ..... Karen Merseth  
**Offertory/preservice**..... Johnny Moldstad | **Pianist (Monday)** .....Emily Bredeson



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