

What Now?

The Festival of the Ascension

May 26, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com | Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Aaron Ferkenstad, & Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky

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, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

Service of the Word

The Son of God left his throne in heaven to become the Son of Man, born as one of his own created earthlings to live and die in our place. His work is now completed. Forty days after his resurrection, on a Thursday, 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.

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | #389 v.1-5

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake 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 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.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

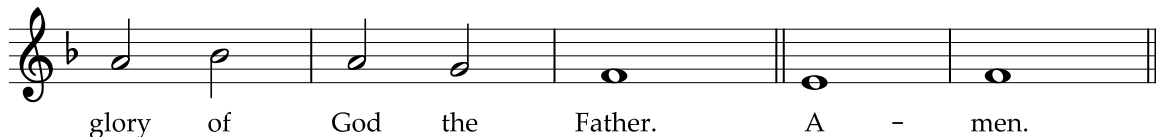
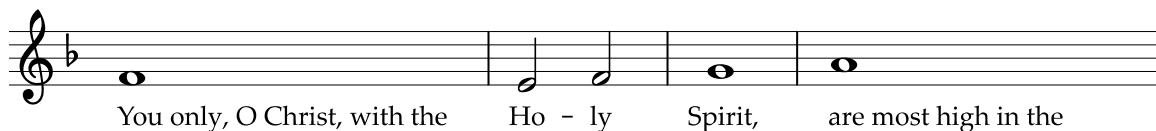
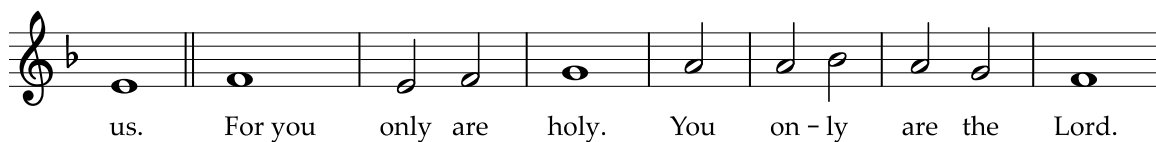
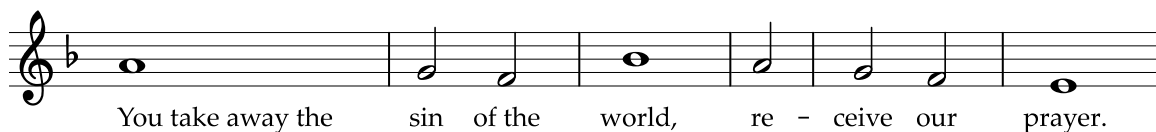
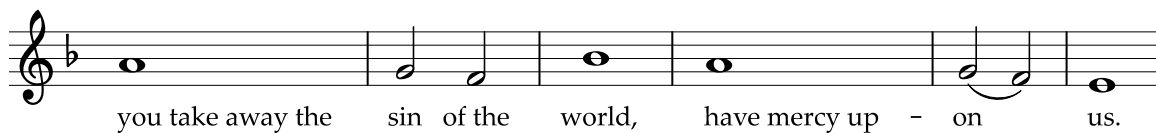
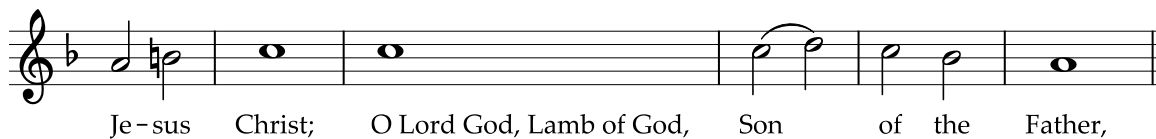
C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God in the Highest

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly half and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that Christ will rule over all: Thank you, eternal Father, that your Son Jesus ascended to your right hand, to rule over all things as Lord. Keep your church in the unity that the Spirit gives, and bring all creation to submit to Christ as Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

God's mighty power raised Christ from the dead and gave him authority to rule over all other powers. Christ is the highest power in the universe, which position he uses for the good of his people.

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | #389 v.6–7

Public worship from the days of the Jewish synagogue has provided some sort of musical interlude between the readings. In the synagogue this was a psalm. In Europe, the cantatas of J. S. Bach and other composers were written to be sung at this point in the service.

In the closing verses of St. Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the entire Bible is pointing to him and is now fulfilled. They are witnesses that his work is finished, and so he can return to heaven.

⁴⁴He 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."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I 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."

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build | #392

SERMON

What Now? | Acts 1:1–11

In the opening verses of the book of Acts, St. Luke continues the story of his Gospel. He adds additional details about Jesus' commands to his disciples before his ascension.

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he showed himself to these men 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"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."

HYMN

Create in Me



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

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.

PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, that by the patience and comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

This blessing from the Old Testament (Numbers 6:24–26) is the only benediction in the Bible written by God himself, and its use at the end of our service is uniquely Lutheran. In 1523, Martin Luther suggested we use these words or a passage from the Psalms, saying, “I believe Christ used something of this kind when he blessed his disciples as he ascended into the heavens.”

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.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all requests for bulletin announcements to bulletin@kog-els.org.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday worship times are 8:15 and 10:00—our summer worship schedule—and remain on that schedule until Labor Day. Monday evenings remain at 6:30.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

King of Grace's high school is offering several athletic camps in June. There are women's self-defense classes for 5th grade through adult and boy's and girl's basketball camps for 3rd through 7th grades. Find more information at www.wlhs.net.

RECIPES

Copies of the delicious soup recipes served during our Lenten dinners are available on the Pioneers bulletin board near the church kitchen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact Wanda Warnke with prayer requests at (612) 529-1497.

Attendance Last Week: 420 worshiped on Sunday and 11 worshiped on Monday.

Calendar

Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Service
Tuesday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	King's Daughters
Saturday	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:15 am	Communion Service
	10:00 am	Communion Service

Preacher and Liturgist Pastor Ben Wiechmann
Organist Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)** Lynn Handberg

Counters Today Ann Werner, Jeff & Julia Ripley
 Counters Next Sunday John & Cindy Costello, Leah Wandersee
Usher Captains Today Steve Kopacek, Loren Braun
 Usher Captains Next Sunday John Vomhof, John Woodington
Video Team Today Jason Luxford
 Video Team Next Sunday Gerry Reason
Coffee Clean Up Today School Board
May Altar Guild Kathy Reason, Anne Bechtold
 June Altar Guild Linda Browning, Arlene Fuller

Altar Flowers

Flowers today are given by Marilyn Larson's family with love and thanksgiving on her 90th birthday and by Troy and Nancy Grooms in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Offerings Last Week:

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154
Received Last Week: \$14,420

Average Needed Year to Date: \$759,238
Received Year to Date: \$810,611