

*Jesus Above All*

The Festival of Ascension

May 21, 2023

# 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 for small children.

## *Service of Preparation*

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ANTHEM (10:00 AM)

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

*The congregation may join in verse four as the Sunday School children return to their families.*

### HYMN

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | #389*

### 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.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you—of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ—to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you! Amen.

## HYMN

*Gloria*



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er-more. A - men.

# Service of the Word

*The readings for the festival of ascension convey a Spirit-inspired enthusiasm and joy. As the apostles praised the Lord at his ascension so do we, because it is proof that he rules over all.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that Jesus rule over all: 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.

## FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11

*The disciples trusted that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but they needed some correcting. Jesus restored the kingdom to all believers, since he rules in our hearts by faith.*

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.”

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

*God’s right hand is not merely a location. It is a position of honor and authority far above all others, to rule everything for the good of his people.*

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I 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. <sup>18</sup>I pray 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 his holy people, <sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

*If God be for us, who can be against us?  
He who did not spare His only Son,  
But gave Him up for all,  
Shall He not with Him freely give us all  
things?*

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He who did not spare His only Son,  
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Shall He not with Him freely give us all  
things?*

*Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
To His throne beyond the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv’n, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heav’n, Alleluia!*

*Circled round with angel pow’rs, Alleluia!  
Their triumphant Lord and ours, Alleluia!  
Christ has conquered death and sin, Alleluia!  
Take the King of Glory in, Alleluia!*

## SERMON

Luke 24:44–53

*The rule of Jesus has a point: to extend his kingdom through the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It started at Jerusalem and continues today in Golden Valley, MN.*

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.”

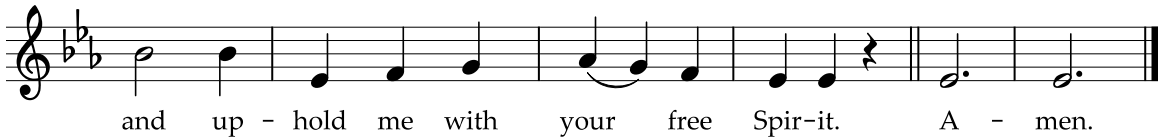
<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, 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.

## 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,



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall 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 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.**

## 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

# Service of the Sacrament

*The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.*

P: Let us pray: It is truly, good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection was taken up to heaven that he might make us participants in his divine nature. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and worship your glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

## HYMN

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Sab - a - oth; Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.  
Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## LORD'S PRAYER

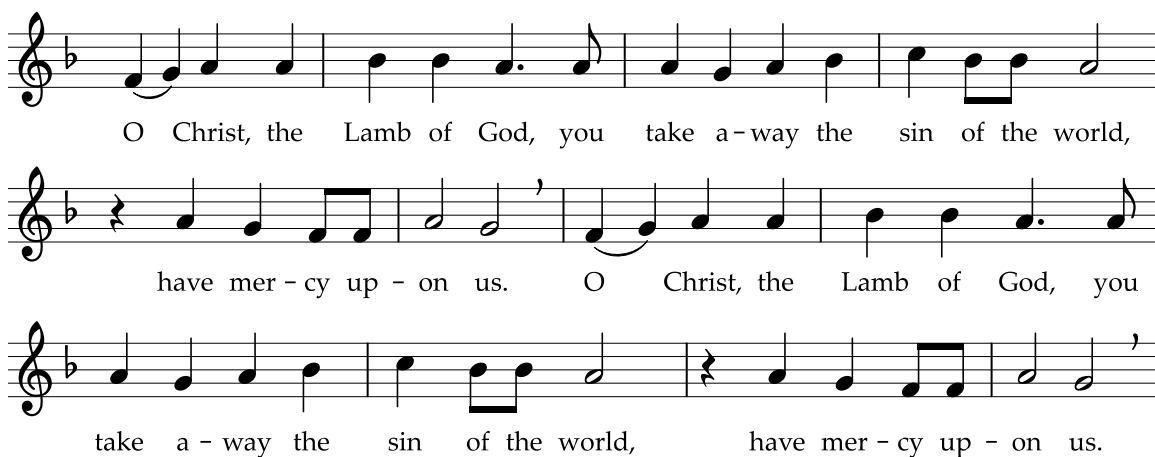
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

**P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Agnus Dei*



O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,  
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns* | #393

**THANKSGIVING HYMN**

*Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace  
ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry  
of your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

**PRAYER**

P: Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that on the basis of his work you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We ask you not to abandon your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, so that we may be empowered constantly to serve 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 Christ's Ascension I Now Build* | #392

**Preacher**.....Vicar Max Kerr | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad  
**Organist (Sunday)**.....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**.....Emily Bredeson



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
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