



# **St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN**

Sunday, May 16, 2021

'The Ascension of our Lord'

Now the Feast and Celebration with Communion

## **GATHERING**

### **Introduction**

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.

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

(Please Stand)

### **Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #532 Gather Us In**

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven,  
light years away here in the place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom,  
and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together, fire...of love in our flesh and our bone.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise (cranberry) #167 Now the Feast and Celebration**

*~Refrain~*

***Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forever more.***

1. *Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God.*

*~Refrain~*

2. *Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever.*

*~Refrain~*

3. *For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new.*

*~Refrain~*

(Please be seated)

**WE HEAR GOD'S 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:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going, and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>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."

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

**Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) pg 198**

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia*

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.*

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

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

<sup>44</sup>[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.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them; he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*P: The Gospel of the Lord*

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

***Children’s Message – see our St. John Facebook page***

**Message**

**Up and away?**

Pastor John Omans

**Message Song (cranberry) #392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (verse 1,2,3)**

- 1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: “Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”*
- 2. Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o’er, shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you evermore”?*
- 3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.*

(Please Stand)

**NICENE CREED**

**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.**

### **The Prayers**

*P: Lord, in your mercy*

**C: Hear our prayer**

### **Peace**

*P The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C And also with you.**

*P We share Christ's peace with each other.*

## Offering Invitation (*spoken by Pastor*)

(please be seated)

### THANKSGIVING

#### Stewardship Minute

Founded by Lutherans in the United States in 1945, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. This past Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, members of St. John assembled over 80 personal care kits. These kits will be sent to areas around the world where they are needed. Thank you for the donations, prayers, and helpers of this project. Thank you, St. John Lutheran Church, for 'letting your light shine!'

#### Offering Prayer

*P Let us pray together*

**C God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

**C Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### Sing

Presider: The Lord be with you      **Congregation : And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.      **Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*P It is our duty and delight.... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Sanctus** (cranberry) #191 ***Holy, Holy, Holy***

#### Sing

*Holy, holy, holy are, God of power and might*

*Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!*

## Words of Institution

*P: You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.*

*On the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:*

*Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:*

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and ascension we pray for his coming again, even as we cry: Amen! Come Lord, Jesus!*

### Sing

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

P: *Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!*

### Sing

*Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

*Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

*P: This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend*

### Sing

*Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit,*

*All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.*

*P Make us bold, merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray.*

## The 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

*P The Gifts of God for the people of God*

*Come, all is ready.*

## Communion

(All baptized Christians are invited to come to the Lord's Table. All Children who haven't had instruction are invited to come for a blessing. They're asked to fold their hands. Children who are receiving communion please extend your hands. Grape juice is available. Please say "grape juice" to the server).

Gluten Free wafers are available upon request.

**COVID-19 instructions:** Please come down the center aisle, pulpit side first, then lectern side. Please maintain social distancing. Receive the bread and wine and proceed to the side aisle, where you may remove your mask and eat/drink the bread and wine. For those with mobility issues, the bread and wine will be available at a side station near the side aisle.

## Hymns During Communion *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*  
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns (cranberry)

#638 Blessed Assurance

1. *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

~Refrain~

***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long***

2. *Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above echoes and mercy, whispers of love.*

~Refrain~

3. *Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

~Refrain~

Hymns (cranberry)

#774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

1. *What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

~Refrain~

***Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

2. *Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

~Refrain~

3. *What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

~Refrain~

Hymns (cranberry)

#781 Children of the Heavenly Father

1. *Children of the Heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird not star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*

2. *God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.*

3. *Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

4. *Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er for-saketh;  
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

## Prayer after Communion

*P Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen.**

## Blessing

*P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**C Amen.**

(Please stand)

## Sending Hymn (cranberry) #393 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

- 1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 2. The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! And with his faithful foll'wers see their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 3. To whom the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! "This is the Savior!" thus they say, "this is the glorious triumph day!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 4. "You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! "Here after Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## Sending

*P Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!*

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

**PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.**

**Leaders in the Service**

**Pastor:** John Omans

**Organist:** Al Tonn

**Cantor:** Mike Harvey

**Acolyte:** Brody Overland

**Reader:** Sue Erdman

**Ushers:** Steven & Jody Schroeder

**Communion Prep:** Gyles & Carol Randall

**Communion Bread Makers:** Vickie Hill & Cindy Coy

**Council Person:** Kyle Gallagher

**Videographer:** Dennis Sommers

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents**

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