

Christ the King Lutheran Church

“One Family Under One King”

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Celebration of Ascension



May 24th, 2020

Opening Hymn: CW 171 (vv. 1-3)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs 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! Alleluia!
And with his followers they see Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 To them the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia! Alleluia!
“This is the Savior,” thus they say. “This is his glorious triumph day.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Greeting and Invocation

P: We begin our service in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: In faith, God gives us the Holy Spirit who works in us both the desire to throw off the slavery of sin and the power to live a new life. We gather here to confess our unworthiness before our perfectly worthy God, to remember, be it ever so temporarily, the ways we have disobeyed him, and to receive the knowledge of our sure salvation through the light of God’s holy Word and the work of Jesus Christ in life, death, and resurrection as our Savior. May the Lord renew us in body, mind, and spirit so that we may be enabled to serve him now and always.

C: Be with us Lord, we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us join now in confessing our sins to God and asking for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have not always loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For sins of worrying and sins of selfishness, I confess. For letting anxiety get the best of me and allowing it to lead me to doubt your power and your reign over all, I sincerely repent. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

(If you are able and willing, confess to those around you some “outward sins” you have committed in front of them this past week. Share your “inward sins” with your God in personal confession. Spouses- this gives you an opportunity to model humble repentance to your spouse. Parents- this gives you a great opportunity to model and encourage humble repentance to your children. Then take some time for silent meditation.)

(At Pastor’s prompt we join:) I am truly sorry for my sins. I have been led by your Spirit to repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

P: Forgive us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: **Cleanse me from my sins.**

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to change my sinful life.

P: As priest in your house, I invite all the heads of household online right now to mute the corporate absolution portion of our service and take on the role of proclaiming an absolution as a minister of the Keys (John 20:21-23, 1 Peter 2:9) in your household by reading the section below in italics. For the rest of those gathering online, I will continue as your called pastor to proclaim the corporate absolution in a moment. *The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (make the sign of the cross) and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:16-23

¹⁶ I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹ and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. ²⁰ It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. ²³ The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Children’s Message

- 1 On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension.
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well I know his members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.
- 2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone, No other rest remaining,
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
- 3 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.

Sermon Text: Acts 1:1-11

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ² until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. ⁴ Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Prayer

M: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

M: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

M: Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

M: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

M: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is 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.

The Blessing- Spoken by Pastor

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CW 171 (vv. 4-6)

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

4 "You see him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Then, throned with you forever, we Shall praise your name eternally.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to you let earth accord.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite.