

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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The Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)

May 24, 2020

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entryway of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entryway. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system that is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Almighty God, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens in order to fill all things. By Your grace give us faith to see that by His cross He saved us, by His life He assured us of eternal life, and according to His promise He continues with us on earth to the end of the age. By His Spirit lead us in love to live for Him and to tell Him to all who will listen. We pray in the name of our ascended Lord. Amen.

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AS WE GATHER

In Jesus' final appearance to the eleven disciples, He tells them that they will be His witnesses, witnesses of His resurrection. Not only will they be witnesses in familiar places such as Jerusalem and Judea, but they will also be witnesses in Samaria, a foreign land where these Jewish disciples did not care to travel. And finally, the disciples will be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection to the ends of the earth. As we remember Jesus' ascension, we also remember the faithfulness of His disciples to be His witnesses and to go where they were sent, so that we could know the power of Jesus and His resurrection even though we are thousands of miles from Jerusalem.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN CW 175 "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"

**Hail the day that sees Him rise
To His throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n,
Reascends His native heav'n.**

**There the glorious triumph waits:
Lift your heads, eternal gates.
He has conquered death and sin;
Take the King of glory in!**

**See, the heav'n its Lord receives,
Yet He loves the earth He leaves;
Though returning to His throne,
Still He calls mankind His own.**

**See, He lifts His hands above;
See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His Church below.**

**Still for us He intercedes;
His prevailing death He pleads.
He, the first of all our race,
Near Himself prepares a place.**

**There we shall with You remain
Partners in Your endless reign,
There Your face unclouded view,
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in You.**

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

People: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Today is a day of celebration, grief, and anticipation.

People: We celebrate our Lord's triumph and reign.

Pastor: We grieve that He is not visibly present with us.

People: We anticipate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Pastor: And we celebrate that His promise to always be with us remains and will never fade away.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.

Silence for meditation.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ's saving work and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven and restored.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

People: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the ascended Lord!

**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!**

**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!**

**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! (tune 171 CW)**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your Son sent us to the ends of the earth with the Gospel and promised always to be with us. Embolden us to spread the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and return; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1–11 (*Jesus ascends into heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.*)

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

⁶ Then they gathered around Him and asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

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

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

¹⁰ They 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."
(NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 47

1 Clap your hands all you na - tions;
 2 God sub-dues ev - ery na - tion;
 3 To the shout-ing in tri - umph, A-men. Hal-le - lu - jah!
 4 Praise the Lord with your sing - ing;
 5 Those on earth who are might - y,

Eb7(D7) Ab(G) Bb6(A6) Eb(D)

shout for joy all you peo - ple.
 God is king of all crea - tures.
 to the blast-ing of trum - pets, A-men. Hal-le - lu - jah!
 sing God psalms— for - ev - er.
 still be - long to our Mak - er,

Eb/G(D/F#) A° 7(G#° 7) Eb/Bb(D/A) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

Ho - ly is the most high,
 God has giv - en this land,
 God— has— gone up; A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God is mon-arch of all,
 God ex - alt - ed on high,

Eb/G(D/F#) A° 7(G#° 7) Eb/Bb(D/A) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

might-y o - ver the earth.
 to the peo - ple he loves.
 God as-cends o - ver all. A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 sov - 'reign o - ver the earth.
 God, for - ev - er our Lord.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 1:15–23 (*Christ is risen and ascended. All things are under His feet.*)

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 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^o of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. ¹⁸I 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, ¹⁹and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰He exerted when He raised Christ 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 name that is invoked, 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. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.
(*Romans 6:9, Matthew 28:20b*)

Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44–53 (*Jesus is carried up into the heavens.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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 Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the 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 worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY CW 173 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

**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.**

**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.**

**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. (CW 173)**

THE SERMON TEXT Romans 5:6-8

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH--The Second Article with Meaning—Read Responsively

People: I believe 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 will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

OFFERING (Place your offering in the plate on the podium in the entryway.)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into our world with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for His life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection. Most especially today we thank You for seating Him at Your right hand in His ascension. We thank You for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: He rules and reigns in glory.

Pastor: Lord, at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples out to the ends of the earth with a mission to be witnesses of His resurrection. Strengthen us as we continue their faithful witness. Embolden all missionaries and evangelists by constantly opening a door for Your Word to be spoken. We ask this in faith for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: He rules and reigns in glory.

Pastor: Lord, thank You for sending the promised Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our ways. Conform our lives to the Word of God and transform us by the renewing of our minds. We ask this with boldness for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: He rules and reigns in glory.

Pastor: Lord, we live in a world with imperfect leaders, imperfect laws, and imperfect communities, but we know that all things are under Christ's feet, and He has all power and authority, even over pandemic. So we ask for You to send Your perfect wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, instill Your perfect justice in our lawyers and judges, and bring Your perfect hope to our communities. We ask this in hope for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: He rules and reigns in glory.

Pastor: Lord, we pray for those who are sick and recovering, those who are hospitalized and homebound, [especially . . .]. Strengthen them, and give them patience in their afflictions. We ask this in love for we know that Christ is ascended.

People: He rules and reigns in glory.

Pastor: Finally, Lord, we ask for Your comfort for all those who grieve the death of loved ones. Grant them peace as they hope in the resurrection to eternal life. We ask this knowing that Christ is ascended.

People: He is returning soon. Amen.

Pastor: And now we ask the Father, for the sake of the ascended Lord, to hear us as we pray, using the words He has given us to speak.....

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day You ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand You rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth 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.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 170 "Draw Us to Thee"

**Draw us to Thee,
For then shall we
Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on
Where Thou art gone
To be with Thee, dear Savior.**

**Draw us to Thee,
Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be
Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

**Draw us to Thee;
Oh, grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way
Lest we should stray
And from Thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to Thee
That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell
Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to Thee
Unceasingly;
Into Thy kingdom take us.
Let us fore'er
Thy glory share;
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest issue of the bi-monthly newsletter from the synod called "Together" can be accessed at:
<https://cs.welsrc.net/download-cs/together-pdfs/?wpdmdl=3232&ind=1588710306327>

The Church Council will meet this coming Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00 PM.

The Church Council has designated this coming Saturday, May 30th, as the day for New Life's spring cleanup. The cleanup will be an inside / outside clean up. It will last from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM. Donuts and coffee will be served. If you can spend a few hours getting our beautiful facility back up to par inside and out, plan to attend the cleanup. The time may change depending on the worship service schedule for Saturday.

Five in-person worship services are scheduled this weekend. The schedule will be re-evaluated for the weekend of May 31st.

After the service of the Word, the Lord's Supper will be offered to those who desire to receive Holy Communion.

Examination of our two confirmands is scheduled for June 7 and confirmation is scheduled for June 14.

