



## Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, May 24, 2020

**Prelude — “Lasst Uns Erfreuen”**

Setting by Mark Hayes

### Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Silence for reflection.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for calling us, sustaining us, and drawing us together  
with the gift of life-giving water.

It is in this water that you washed us clean and called us beloved.

It is through this water that you have quenched our every thirst.

It is with this water that you have called all of your people together.

Though we are living apart from one another for a season,

we know that we are bound together as children of God

through the waters of baptism.

May the water we use in our everyday lives

constantly be a reminder

of your unending forgiveness, grace, and love

that you offer freely to all.

United through the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ,

whose life and resurrection gives us hope for the days to come, we pray. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn — Hymn — no. 939

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 “You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol - l'wers  
sky?” Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! “This is the Sav - ior!” thus they  
sky.” Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, “this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!” Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty.”  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

## Scripture Reading — Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — hymn no. 388, sung three times

“Be Not Afraid”

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community  
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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Gospel — Luke 24:44-53

The Gospel of the Lord according to the 24th chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are

witnesses of these things. 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."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Gwen Hermanson

### Hymn — no. 579

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and  
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

*Refrain*

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community, especially as they work to develop new and innovative ways to continue to worship and foster relationships during this time.. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home. May the new growth of spring remind us of your presence and show us that you are continually making all things new. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples. Show us how to change our ways, so that oppression and violence rule no more. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day, especially Helen Baumgartner, Bob Gamm, Steven Wenner, and all those we name now (aloud, silently or in the comments of this video). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Infinite God, we are grateful for your constant presence as we face sickness and even death. We hold in our hearts those who have left their earthly home to reside with you. We remember especially this day Cole Turetin, who passed away this week after a long battle with cancer. Comfort his family and friends as they grieve, and give them your eternal peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Please remember to give financially to support our ministry. You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

## **Easter Blessing**

May the loving power of God,  
which raised Jesus to new life,  
strengthen you in hope,  
enrich you with love,  
and fill you with joy.

**Sending Hymn — no. 855**

**"Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

*Music on next page*



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4  
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ has risen!

**Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude — “Trumpet Tune in D”**

David N. Johnson

## Acknowledgements

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## Prayers of the People

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The list below is for recent needs or praise, and a long-term prayer list for chronic or long-term needs will be published monthly in the Heartbeat:

- Helen Baumgartner
- Bob Gamm (father of Cindy Nadeau)
- Steven Wenner (brother-in-law of Dawn Wenner)

## **Family & Friends of those who have died:**

- Cole Turrittin

## Announcements

**Weekly E-newsletter:** Each Thursday, we are sending out an e-newsletter with the latest announcements. If you haven't subscribed to MailChimp, you might miss out of our latest news. Subscribe now by following this link: <http://eepurl.com/g2yISb>

**Virtual Worship and Spiritual Engagement:** These links can be accessed through our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FLCSTP](http://www.facebook.com/FLCSTP)) and will be available at 10am each day.

**Communion Next Week:** On Pentecost Sunday (May 31), the day we celebrate the surprising and unexpected ways that the Holy Spirit moves, we will be sharing communion together! You are invited to participate from your own home. Before worship, have a piece of bread and a small glass of wine or juice for each person ready. We are confident that God is present as we assemble online and will be present in the bread and wine/juice served in this way.

**Make Bread Together:** In anticipation of celebrating communion together on May 31, Intern Miranda will be making communion bread during the prayer vigil on Thursday, May 28. Any bread or cracker can be used for communion, but if you would like to bake along with her she will be using the Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe, which can be found [here](#).

Pastor Gwen is turning 40 in June! She's decided it's time to finally write up that **Advanced Healthcare Directive**. Would you like to join her in making progress in this area? Maybe you have never filled one out or need to update yours. Thrivent is going to lead a Healthcare Directive workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. RSVP to Pastor Gwen if you want to learn with her!

The **minutes for the April 21 council meeting** are available online at [www.flcstp.org/leadership](http://www.flcstp.org/leadership).  
Note: minutes are posted after they are approved.