

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Grace...love...fellowship..." from the Trinity at Trinity (2 Cor 13:14)

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Trinity is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)
Please visit www.clclutheran.org for more information

The Sunday after Ascension

May 19-20, 2012

Pre-Service Meditation: Psalm 47 ; Hymnal, p. 134



Welcome Worshipers! Have you ever noticed how it seems that the more important a Christian holy-day is, the more distractions there are or the more the day is misunderstood or outright ignored. The simple joy of our Savior's birth at Christmas can be overshadowed by materialism and a jolly man in a red suit.

Possibly no holy-day on the Christian calendar is more overlooked than the event last Thursday - the 40th day after Easter. For forty days after Easter Jesus appeared and ate with His disciples to leave no doubt in their mind that He truly, bodily had risen from the dead. And then on the fortieth day He returned to His throne in heaven. His disciples watched as He physically and visibly ascended from the earth into the sky, until a cloud hid Him from their view. Then Jesus returned to heaven, where He rules over the universe and intercedes for us.

Let us not lose sight of the power of Jesus ascension into heaven. Power over all creation and power in our lives to make and keep us as His children!

A Special Welcome to our Visitors, in Jesus' Name! We are thankful that the Lord led you to us today! Today's worship services follow a structured, liturgical format which can be found on the following pages of this bulletin. We encourage you to speak with the Pastor or an Usher if you have any questions about today's service or our church. Please record your visit with us by signing our guest register and we hope you will join us again!

Opening Hymn

#221 - "Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices"



THE INVOCATION:

(We call on the name of our Triune God)

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost

CONGREGATION: 🎵 "Amen"

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION:

(We come before our Creator and Redeemer, confessing our guilt and seeking His forgiveness)

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our Help is in the name of the Lord.

C: 🎵 "Who made heaven and earth."

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: 🎵 "And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Ps 32:5)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, who has given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives power to become sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: 🎵 "Amen"

🎵 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." (738:1)

THE COLLECT:

(A prayer based on the service theme, along with any prayer requests)

P: Let us pray: Grant we pray, almighty God, that even as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind ascend and continually dwell there with Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 "Amen"

RESPONSIVE READING:

(Psalm 47)

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C: Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

P: For the LORD Most High is awesome;

C: He is a great King over all the earth.

P: He will subdue the peoples under us,

C: And the nations under our feet.

P: He will choose our inheritance for us,

C: The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P: For God is the King of all the earth;

C: Sing praises with understanding.

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on His holy throne.

P: The princes of the people have gathered together,

C: The people of the God of Abraham.

P: For the shields of the earth belong to God;

C: He is greatly exalted.

P: God has gone up with a shout!

C: The LORD with the sound of a trumpet!

🎵 Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.

In-ter-ces-sor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the angels Sweep across the crystal sea. (738:2)

The Scripture Lessons

*"The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever." (Is 40:8)*



Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 110

Jesus is the King of kings, ruling over all of Creation and our great High Priest who is continually interceding for us at the Father's right hand

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord *is* at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill *the places* with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.

THE GRADUAL:

(The verse for the day which ties together the Scripture passages and service theme)

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia! (Rom 6:9 / Matt 28:20b)

ALL: ♪ "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

A HARMONY OF THE ASCENSION ACCOUNTS

Jesus presented Himself alive after His suffering to the apostles He had chosen by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father. "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands

and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And they worshiped Him.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Then with great joy they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. And after the Holy Spirit was poured out on them, His disciples went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

P: *God has gone up with a shout,*

C: **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

♫ 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,
Never shall we lose His promise: "I am with you evermore!" (738:3)



OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH:

(We make public confession of our faith in the Triune God)

The Apostles' Creed



**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried;
He descended into Hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Sermon Hymn:

#214 - "Lo, God to Heaven Ascendeth"



Sermon Theme and Notes:

THE WORD OF GOD: Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, (16) I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (20) that he 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 and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

THE IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS OF THE FATHER'S POWER

1) Raised Jesus from the dead

2) Seated Jesus above all

3) Made you His child

4) Continues to work for you and in you

THE OFFERTORY:

(We pray that God would bless us by His Word)

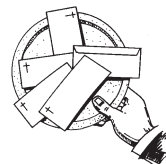
P: "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.** (Ps 51:10-12)

Hymn:

#216 - "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"



~ Offering of Thankful Hearts ~
*In support of the Gospel ministry
here at Trinity and throughout the CLC*

THE PRAYERS

(Prayers of the church for our offering and in connection with our service theme)

THE BENEDICTION:

(Luke 24:50-53)

P: "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

C: "And they worshiped Him,
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and were continually in the temple praising
and blessing God. Amen."



P: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you,
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)
C: ♪ "A-men. A-men. A-a-men."

Closing Hymn:

#212:7 - "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

