

May 5th, 2024
Ascension



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for coffee after the service. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Study at 11:00.

CHRIST'S ASCENSION MEANS HE IS CLOSER THAN EVER

Conventional wisdom would say if Christ has ascended into heaven, he is further away from his followers than when he was visibly on earth. The resurrection reality is that it is the other way around. Now that Christ has ascended, he is closer than ever. The living and ascended Savior has reassumed full use of all his divine power. So if you need Christ's help, you don't need to hunt for him in Galilee. You call to him in prayer, wherever you are, whenever you want, and he hears and acts. You want to hear Jesus speak? You don't need to chase him down. Open his Word and listen to his powerful, life-giving voice.

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work.

Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. Therefore, the Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

Stand

- M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

C: **Amen.**

C: **Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

C: **I confess that I am by nature sinful.
I am guilty of many sins.
I am distressed by the sins that trouble me.**

Silence for meditation and reflection..

M: For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness.

C: **For all this I am sorry. I pray for forgiveness.**

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

M: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

M: By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
You are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

C: **The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

**He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

**As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
his love endures forever.**

M: Serve your God with joy and gladness in the peace of your Savior.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.



Be seated

FIRST READING

ACTS 1:1-11

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

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

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

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

¹⁰They 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.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 47D: ALL PEOPLES, CLAP YOUR HANDS

Psalter page 245

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 4:7-16

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

LUKE 24:44-53

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.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



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

SERMON

ACTS 1:1-11

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

(The congregation will join in singing the creed.)

**I believe in God the Father,
Maker of the heav'n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God's own Son of human birth.
Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate,
Whom the Spirit did conceive;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
He's the God whom I believe!**

**Crucified, was dead and buried;
Down to hell in victory;
From the dead he rose the third day;
Up to heav'n triumphantly.
There at God's right hand he's ruling,
By his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations,
Both the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Spirit,
In his Church, his chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion,
Holy in his sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven;
I believe I'll rise again;
I believe in life eternal.
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Offering

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 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.

Be seated

HYMN: CHRIST HIGH-ASCENDED

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Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M: 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

HYMN: HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

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