

PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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ASCENSION DAY

May 25, 2017

Pastor Mark H. Bernthal
Organist: Miss Pam Schulz
Teacher: Ms. Claire Abbas

Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 21

HYMN 212: "*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*"

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

C: **Amen.**

P: You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

C: **and you will be My witnesses.**

P: Christ suffered and on the third day rose from the dead.

C: **Repentance and forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in His name.**

Confession and Absolution

P: In the glow of the Lord's resurrection, let us draw near confessing our sins and receiving the precious and firm gift of forgiveness.

All: **Eternal Lord God, by Your Word You open the minds of those who hear to understand and believe that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, and that You call us to repent of our sins and believe in Your Son Jesus Christ, that for His sake You forgive all sin. So we repent of all our sins and ask You to declare Your forgiveness this day.**

P: As a called servant of Christ 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.

All: **Amen.**

Responsive Reading, Ps. 47

P: Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Luke 24:44-53

This text summarizes Christ's activity during the 40 days from Easter until the day "He was parted from them and carried up into heaven." We hear of the "great joy" of the disciples over this event and of their worship of the Ascended Lord. May our worship be so filled with joy and praise to our Ascended, ever-living Lord and Savior who rules all things.

Acts 1:1-11

In this reading we have the most complete report of the Ascension of our Savior. We hear our Savior's promise of the Holy Spirit and our Lord's commission to be His witnesses. Luke also reports to us the comforting message of the angels--that Jesus will come again.

HYMN 737: "*Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels*"

Ephesians 1:15-23

What is the significance of Christ's Ascension? It is a demonstration of God's great power – the dominion of Christ over all things especially over the Church and it is the glorious assurance which this brings to every Christian. I too will ascend to be with Christ forever.

Confession of Faith: **Nicene Creed**, p. 5 Worship Supplement

HYMN 216: "*On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*"

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:7-16

Sermon Theme: Why Did Jesus Ascend?

I: To give Gifts to His Church.

II: To Strengthen His body.

Offerings of Thankful Hearts

OFFERING HYMN 215: "*Draw Us to Thee*"

Prayer/Lord's Prayer/Benediction

HYMN 738: "*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*"

PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU:

We praise our Ascended Lord and Savior that you are with us this evening. We pray this message of Jesus' Ascension blesses you today and always. Jesus rules all things for the welfare of His Church, all believers! If you are interested in learning more about your Savior

and about what we teach, please see Pastor Bernthal. We are ready to witness to the truth of God's Word to you at anytime. Come worship with us again. Please also sign our guest register.

This Sunday: 10:00 Family Worship

Scripture Readings

Luke 24:44-53

44 Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the Prophets and the Psalms* concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 "And you are witnesses of these things. 49 "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." 50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:1-11

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "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." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 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."

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which 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 principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Sermon Text

Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended" -- what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.