

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Welcomes You



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 21, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
4333 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127
Phone: (269) 429-7222 - Church (269) 429-7111 - School
www.christ-luth.org

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 9:30 a.m..

Thursday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m.

Christian Day School: Preschool through 8th grade

The Ascension of our Lord

As We Gather

According to ancient practice, Christ's Ascension is symbolically noted with the extinguishing of the Easter light (Paschal candle) at the Gospel verse, "he left them and was taken up into heaven."

Hymn - "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" Hymn 493

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
 New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Christ, by a road before untrod,
 Ascends unto the throne of God.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 The holy apostolic band
 Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 And with His faithful foll'wers see
 Their Lord ascend in majesty.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 3 To them the shining angels cry,
 "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 "This is the Savior," thus they say;
 "This is His glorious triumph day!"
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 “You see Him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia, alleluia!
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 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!

6 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!

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Confession and Absolution

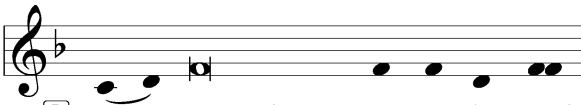
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

InvocationPage 151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

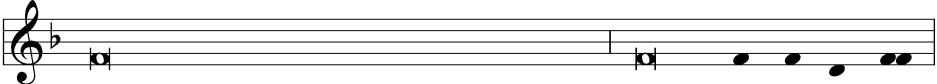
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



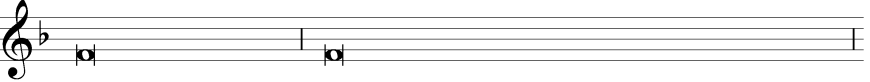
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



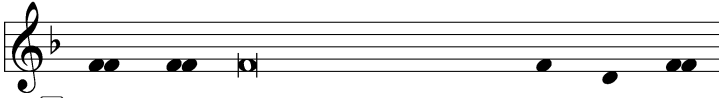
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise - "This is the Feast"Page 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Salutation.....Page 156

- P** The Lord be with you
- C** **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray
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.**

Sit

Readings from Holy Scripture

First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will

receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual ~ “O Stay With Us”

BWV 6- "Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden"

(1685-1750)

Jennifer Steffens - Soloist

*Ah remain with us, Lord Jesus Christ,
because evening approaches now,
Your divine Word, the bright light,
let it not be extinguished among us.*

*In these last, troubled times
grant us, Lord, perseverance,
that we may preserve Your word and sacrament
pure until our end.*

Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

C **Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.**

Rom. 6:9; Matt. 28:20b

Hymn ~ “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”..... Hymn 821

1 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.”

2 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,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
“I am with you evermore”?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

5 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."

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Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn ~ “Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels”Hymn 491

(Stanza 3 – Soloist)

- 1 Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.

- 2 Death-destroying, life-restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!

- 3 To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.

- 4 Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

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Sermon
“Not Abandoned”
Acts 1:1-11

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

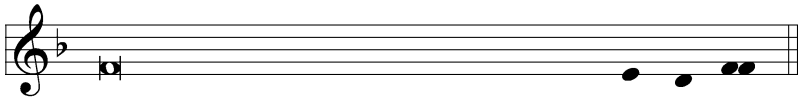
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer for the Church

Lord's Prayer

C 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.



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



G A - men.

Hymn - “See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”Hymn 494
(Stanzas 1 & 3 - Soloist; Stanzas 2, 4, 5 – Congregation)

- 1 See, the Lord ascends in triumph;
Conqu’ring King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,
To His heav’nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices
Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted
To receive their heav’nly King.

- 2 Who is this that comes in glory
With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies,
He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer,
He who from the grave arose,
He has vanquished sin and Satan;
He by death has crushed His foes.

3 While He lifts His hands in blessing,
 He is parted from His friends;
 While their eager eyes behold Him,
 He upon the clouds ascends.
 He who walked with God and pleased Him,
 Preaching truth and doom to come,
 He, our Enoch, is translated
 To His everlasting home.

4 Now our heav'nly Aaron enters
 With His blood within the veil;
 Joshua now is come to Canaan,
 And the kings before Him quail.
 Now He plants the tribes of Israel
 In their promised resting place;
 Now our great Elijah offers
 Double portion of His grace.

5 He has raised our human nature
 On the clouds to God's right hand;
 There we sit in heav'nly places,
 There with Him in glory stand.
 Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
 Man with God is on the throne.
 By our mighty Lord's ascension
 We by faith behold our own.

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+ Silent Prayer +

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| SERVICE PARTICIPANTS: | |
| THE PREACHER | Rev. Martin P. Measel |
| THE LITURGIST | Rev. Christopher J. Yeager |
| THE ORGANIST | Nicholas Quardokus |
| THE SOLOIST | Jennifer Steffens |
| THE INSTRUMENTALIST | Carl Steffens |
| ALTAR GUILD | Celeste Grau, Terry Steffens |

The Ascension of our Lord

Christians love to celebrate the events of Jesus' life here on earth. December 25th cannot pass by without the people of the world knowing that something special is being remembered and celebrated. Reports of Palm Sunday and Good Friday observances from around the world are evident every year. Even the secular media acknowledges the importance of Easter to the Christian people.

Yet it is a sad commentary on the state of the Church in our country—even among Lutherans—that Ascension Day can pass by without anyone taking notice.

Since the time of the Reformation, Lutherans have recognized the importance of Christ's ascension into heaven. It is commemorated in the art work displayed in many Lutheran Churches. In those houses of worship, Sunday after Sunday the faithful see Jesus being received into the clouds of heaven while the disciples watch in awe, as we celebrate the completion of Christ's mission on earth and His triumph over sin, death and the devil.

Pastor Quardokus