

ASCENSION



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving the Portland Area
With the Means of Grace
As a family of believers
For almost 110 years...

As a Church
As a School
As a Preschool
As a Mission
As a Ministry
As a Family of Ministries



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

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Festival of Ascension Observed, May 16th, 2021

GRACE ~ *“I am not ashamed of the gospel...”*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

GRACE ~ *“These are written that you may believe...”*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

GRACE ~ *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” II Peter 3:1**

ASCENSION

- M: 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."
- C: **We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**
- M: God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.
- C: **At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
- M: Forty days and forty nights, the rain poured down and the flood waters rose. God drowned the ancient world in a breath-taking act of liquid judgment. Forty days and forty nights, the Son of God presented himself to his disciples alive and exceedingly well after drowning sin in a flood of blood and swallowing up death in his resurrected body. Now the forty days were at an end. After promising his disciples a pouring-out of the Spirit and entrusting to them the keys to the Kingdom, Jesus—in one final, saving act of his earthly ministry—ascended into heaven. The clouds that hide Jesus from our sight cannot cast a shadow on our Ascension joy: *“God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets”* (Psalm 47).

Hymn

CW #255 (1-2) *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

***Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!***

***Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou;
Let it be thy temple now!***

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

M: Christ is arisen!

C: **He is risen indeed!**

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy!

C: **Let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

Hymn

CW #255 (3-4) *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Here thy praise is gladly chanted;

Here thy seed is duly sown.

Let my soul, where it is planted,

Bring forth precious sheaves alone,

So that all I hear may be

Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken;

Let me keep thy gift divine,

Howsoe'er temptations thicken;

May thy Word still o'er me shine

As my guiding star through life,

As my comfort in all strife.

CONFESSION OF SIN

M: Gracious Lord, through your Word you have revealed to us again and again the unsearchable riches of Christ, but again and again we confess that we have failed to recognize how richly we have been blessed.

M: We confess that we have often failed to fully appreciate all you have done for us in Christ, and have failed to share the message of your love and grace with others as we should.

M: We confess that so often we have overlooked the needs of those who live near us and have shown so little concern for those who are far away.

A moment of silence for personal confession

ABSOLUTION

M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. -Ephesians 2:4-9

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.

C: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Hymn

CW #255 (5) *Open Now Thy Gates Of Beauty*

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;

Let thy will be done indeed.

May I undisturbed draw near thee

While thou dost thy people feed.

Here of life the fountain flows;

Here is balm for all our woes.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 33:26-29

²⁶ There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to help you. In his majesty he rides through the clouds. ²⁷ The everlasting God is a dwelling place, and his eternal arms are under you. He drove out^[a] the enemy in front of you, and he said, "Destroy!" ²⁸ So Israel settled down in safety. Jacob dwelt in security in a land of grain and fresh wine, and, yes, its heavens dropped down dew. ²⁹ How blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you? You are a people saved by the LORD, the shield who gives you help, the sword who gives you majesty. Your enemies will come cringing before you, and you will trample on their high places.

Refrain

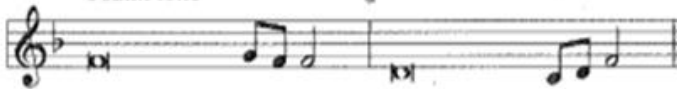


Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Clap your hands, all you nátions;*
shout to God with cíes of joy.

How awesome is the LÓRD Most High,*
the great King over áll the earth!

God reigns over the nátions;*
God is seated on his hóly throne.

Refrain

God has ascended amid shóuts of joy,*
the LÓRD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing práises;*
sing praises to our King, sing práises.

For God is the King of áll the earth;*
sing to him a psalm of praise.

Glory be to the Father and fo the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beǵinning,*
is now, and will be forever. Ámen.

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:16-23

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 28:20b

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW #169: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

***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."***

***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.***

***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"?***

THE SERMON LESSON

The Ascension of Our Lord A harmony based of the Gospels and Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After 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.

Soon after the resurrection, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

On one occasion, Jesus 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."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

On another 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. I 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." For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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

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

When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. And he sat at the right hand of God.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "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."

Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

THE SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at [Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://www.paypal.com/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.
- M: Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.
- C: As the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to silence our witness to the truth, grant us courage to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord.**
- M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us, his kingdom of priests, to pray for others.
- C: Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:**
- M: *prayers of intercession are offered*
- C: Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.**
- M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he ever stands for us as our own high priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end.

THE 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.

THE RECESSION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle is the large candle placed on a tall brass candlestick located near the baptismal font in our chancel. "Paschal" is taken from a Hebrew word meaning "Passover". For centuries the Passover pointed to with Jesus' passion as the Lamb of God and his glorious resurrection that assures us that everyone who is covered by the blood of the Lamb will be saved, and though death itself will pass over us it cannot harm us.

It was on Good Friday that Paschal Candle entered the sanctuary in the darkness of the Tenebrae reminding us that Jesus would rise again. The candle is lighted for every service during the 40-day period that follows Easter as we celebrate the resurrection, the greatest of God's miracles and mercies.

But now our Lord has ascended into heaven and disappeared from our sight. And so we snuff out the Paschal Candle, and as its smoke ascends we are reminded of Christ's ascension.

At the Festival of the Ascension the Paschal Candle is carried from the chancel and replaced with a plain white candle called "The Christ Candle" to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with his Church in bodily form but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory. The recession of the Paschal Candle does not imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for he promised, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). Wherever his Word and Sacraments are, Christ is truly present. The recession of the Paschal Candle and the presence of Christ Candle helps us to remember the great commission that Jesus gave to his disciples to "go and be his witness to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) yet at the same time he promised that he would "never leave them or forsake them" (Hebrews 13:5). Through the Means of Grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacrament Christ is still really present with us. We are indeed witnesses of grace.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"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!

Worship Notes

for kids

Name _____

Date _____



Songs We Sang

The Scripture Text Was: _____

What was the sermon about?

Draw a picture from the lesson.



Words I Don't Know:

