



The kingdom of heaven
is like a man going
on a journey.





Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503 .290.6316– call /text)
 School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)
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The Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Observed May 21st, 2023

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.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

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

CW21 #474 (1-2) **Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise**

*Hail the day that sees him rise
To his throne above the skies!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n,
Reascends his native heav'n.*

*There the glorious triumph waits:
Lift your heads, eternal gates.
He has conquered death and sin;
Take the King of glory in!*

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

CW21 #474 (3-4) **Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise**

*See, the heav'n its Lord receives,
Yet he loves the earth he leaves;
Though returning to his throne,
Still he calls mankind his own.*

*See, he lifts his hands above;
See, he shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on his Church below.*

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.

HYMN

CW21 #474 (5-6) **Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise**

*Still for us he intercedes;
His prevailing death he pleads.
He, the first of all our race,
Near himself prepares a place.*

*There we shall with you remain
Partners in your endless reign,
There his face unclouded see,
Live with him eternally.*

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.

C: Amen

THE WORD

THE LESSON OF THE DAY

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.

HYMN

CW21 Blue #747: **Christ High – Ascended**

*Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,
Throned and exalted, victory completed,
Death's dread dominion finally defeated We are his witnesses.*

*Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing,
Who on his chosen lifted hands in blessing,
Sends forth his servants, still in faith confessing We are his witnesses.*

*Christ, who in dying won for us salvation,
Lives now the firstborn of the new creation;
To win disciples out of ev'ry nation, We are his witnesses.*

*Christ in his splendor, all dominion gaining,
Christ with his people evermore remaining,
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning We are his witnesses.*

*As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving,
Faith in his presence strengthen our believing;
Filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving, We are his witnesses.*

THE SERMON

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

²¹ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²² “The servant who received the two talents came and said, ‘Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.’

²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ “Then the servant who received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵ Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “His master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. ²⁸ Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. ²⁹ Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰ Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

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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 BENEDICTION

M: 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.

C: Amen.

THE RECEPTION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

M: *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.*

HYMN

CW21 Blue #472 (1-3): **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!**

**The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia! And with his followers they see Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**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!**

M: *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:

CW21 Blue #472 (4-6): **A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

**“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!**

**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!**

**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!**

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:

