

Celebration of the **Ascension**

Sunday, May 8, 2016

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, *“appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3). After 40 days, He ascended to the heavens. 40 days past Easter was this past Thursday (May 5), but we move our celebration of this event to today. When Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not abandon His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues *“to do and teach”* (Acts 1:1), preaching *“repentance and forgiveness of sins”* (Luke 24:47), even *“to the end of the earth”* (Acts 1:8).

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Pastor Ben Squires

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,

Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Elder: Mike Bandman
Comm./Asst. Elder: Tim Faitsch
Acolytes: Alyssa Buttler, Logan Rosenthal
Ushers: Bob Paulson, John Paulson,
Dave Hoffmeister
Lay Readers: Ben Sanders, Diane Sanders
Greeters: Diane Boehm,
Messmer Family
Fellowship: Men's Day
May Altar Guild: Diane Mundrick
May Counters: Monte Stoltzman

Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Bob Souza
Jack Warneke
Jessica Chudy, Kelly Kruse
OPEN, OPEN
Bob Souza, Ann Souza
Rich & Karen Arnold,
Cindy Ellwein
Marsha Somppi
Kathy Schwartz

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Joan Blasko in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Yarusinsky, and grandmother, Elizabeth.

HYMNS SERVICE

This service follows the order of Divine Service I from the hymnal while using hymns in place of liturgy pieces.

Anthem **8:00 AM** **“I Just Wanna Be a Sheep”** **Cherub Choir**
 10:45 AM **“No Man Works Like Him”** **Junior Choir**

Opening Hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

LSB 549



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood and the gall,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your tro - phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
[To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.]

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
[We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.]

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)

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.**

1 John 1:8-9

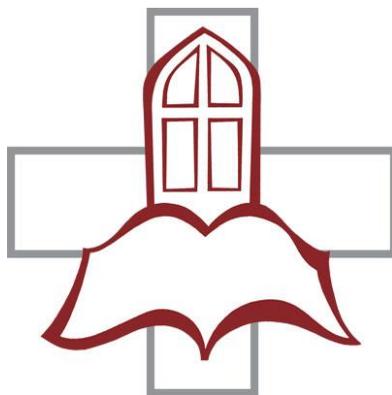
P: We pause in silence to reflect on our personal sins that trouble us.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



Entrance Hymn**All Glory Be to God Alone**

LSB 948, stanzas 1-2



1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, For - ev - er - more the
 2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And wor - ship You in



high - est one, Who did our sin - ful race be - friend And
 hum - ble - ness; From day to day we glo - ri - fy The



grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong us may His
 ev - er - last - ing God on high. Of Your great glo - ry



gra - cious will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.
 do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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 mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

I Will Rise

VERSE 1



1. There's a peace I've come to know, though my heart and flesh may fail.



There's an anchor for my soul— I can say, "It is well."

CHORUS 1



Je - sus has o - ver-come, and the grave



is o - ver-whelmed; The vic - to - ry is won,

CHORUS 2



He is ris - en from the dead. And I will rise



when He calls my name; No more sor - row, no



more pain. I will rise on ea - gle's wings; Be - fore



my God fall on my knees, and rise.

VERSE 2



I will rise. 2. There's a day that's draw - ing near.

2nd time thru—go to Bridge

when this dark - ness breaks _ to light, _ and the
shad - ows dis - ap - pear, _ and my faith _ shall be _ my eyes. _

End of Verse 2; go to Chorus 1

BRIDGE

And I hear the voice _

of man - y an - gels sing, _ "Wor - thy is _ the Lamb!"
And I hear the cry _ of ev - 'ry long - - ing heart, _ "Wor -
thy is _ the Lamb, _ wor - thy is _ the Lamb!" _

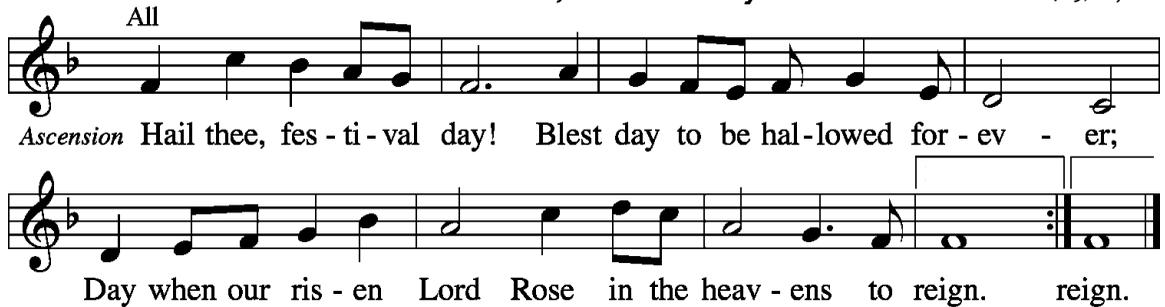
End of Bridge; sing Chorus 2 one more time

Ascension Refrain

Hail Thee, Festival Day

LSB 489, ref-a

All



Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.

Ascension Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 24:44–53 (ESV)

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to [His disciples], “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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Ascension Reading from the Book of Acts

Acts 1:1–11 (ESV)

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.” ⁹And 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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord C: *Thanks be to God.*

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

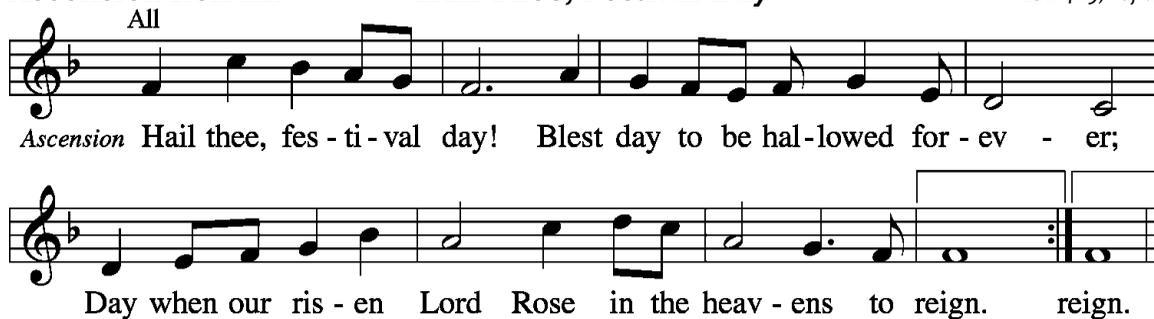
P: Let us pray. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: *Amen.*

Ascension Refrain

Hail Thee, Festival Day

LSB 489, ref-a

All



Ascension Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;
Day when our ris - en Lord Rose in the heav - ens to reign. reign.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Ephesians 1:15–23 (ESV)

¹⁵[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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message with Their Mothers

Mothers, please come up with your children.

Hymn of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

LSB 902



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
 2 Un - seal our lips to sing Your praise In end - less
 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, “O ho - ly,
 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
 hymns through all our days. In - crease our faith and
 ho - ly Lord Most High!” And in the light of
 Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



light di - vine, And let Your truth with - in us shine.
 light our minds; And set us free from doubt that blinds.
 that blest place We then shall see You face to face.
 Trin - i - ty, Be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!

Sermon

“Opened Our Minds to the Scriptures”

Luke 24:44-53

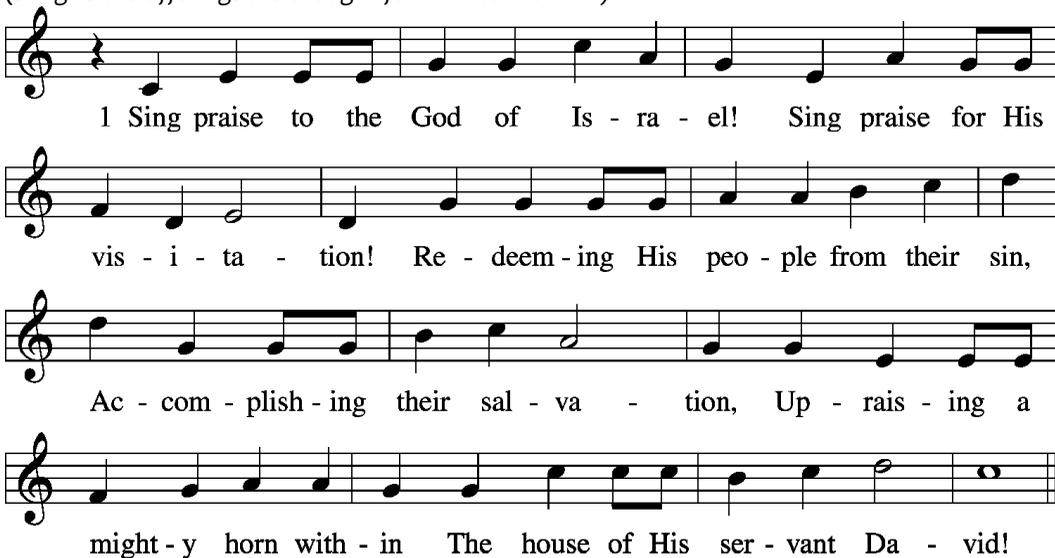
Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory Canticle (Luke 1:68-69 in song)

LSB 936 st. 1

(Sung as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Benediction

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. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

LSB 492



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

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Announcements

Acknowledgements

This order of worship is adapted from the *Lutheran Service Book*, Divine Service, Setting One.

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