

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

*May 29, 2022 // 10:15 am Worship Service
The Ascension of Our Lord*



Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

- Luke 24:50-53

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Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen, Vacancy Pastor
Jeremy Frantz, Worship Facilitator
Joan Krueger, Organist

As we gather together for worship, we remember...

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ... "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"
- Revelation 5:12-13

Jesus invites his followers to participate in **The Lord's Supper**. He gives His very body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine (Matthew 26:26-28). Paul encourages us to **examine** our hearts and our relationships as we prepare to share in this meal together (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). **Children** who have not yet been instructed in communion can cross their arms over their chest to receive a blessing (Mark 10:13-16). For those unable to drink wine, the center ring holds cups intinctured with wine. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Pastor.

~PRESERVICE MUSIC

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels

R. Hobby

~WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

~OPENING HYMN

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels

LSB 491

- 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.

**Please stand.*

- 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!

~INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

~THE CALL TO WORSHIP

WL: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding trumpets.

C: The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

WL: The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

C: The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

WL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

~CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

All: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we stand here in awe, knowing all that your Son Jesus Christ did for us. We stand and watch as he ascends to heaven having conquered sin, death and the devil for us. We stand and watch as he ascends to heaven having conquered sin, death and the devil for us. But we are unworthy of all the blessings that Christ would bestow upon us. We confess that our lives, neither in thought nor in word nor in deed, reflect the glory of our risen Savior. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us all our sins for Jesus’ sake.

WL: The Lord God, our Heavenly Father, has indeed heard our plea for mercy and has had mercy on us. With love and joy he forgives us all of our sins for Jesus’ sake. With this assurance, let us continue our celebration of Christ’s ascension to heaven.

~PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Grant we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven, so we may also hold firmly to the hope that we, too, will ascend one day to live eternally with him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**Please be seated.*

~SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

James 1:19-27

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that 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 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. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand.*

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Then he 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And 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."

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

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**Please be seated.*

~HYMN

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

- 1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.
- 2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

~MESSAGE

“How to be Blessed by the Bible” – James 1:19-27

~APOSTLE’S CREED

LSB Back Cover

**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.**

~WORSHIP SONG

Thy Word Is a Lamp

LSB 973

Refrain Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,
Still You’re there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. *Refrain*

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~OFFERING

**The usher will bring the offering box forward to be placed on the altar during the final refrain of ‘Thy Word Is a Lamp’.*

**Please stand.*

~OFFERTORY PRAYER

~PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

WL: Eternal God, as today we remember that our Blessed Lord ascended up into heaven, help us to set our thoughts on the things that are above.

C: Grant that your voice may speak to us more compellingly than any earthly voice.

WL: Grant that your will may be dearer to us than any earthly desires.

C: Grant that your purpose may mean more to us than earthly ambitions.

WL: Help us to judge things, not in the light of time, but in the light of eternity.

C: Help us to value things, not as men value them, but as you value them; and so to see that it will profit us nothing to gain the whole world.

WL: Help us to see things, not as men see them, but as you see them.

C: So that we may see what things are important, what things do not matter, even if the world holds them dear.

WL: Help us to act, not to please men, but to please you.

All: Help us to walk, not looking for the favor of men, but with our eyes steadfastly fixed on Jesus. Amen.

**Following each additional petition the response will be:*

WL: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

~LORD'S PRAYER

LSB Back Cover

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.

**Please stand.*

~BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

WL: 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 SONG

Listen, God Is Calling

LSB 833

Refrain Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling
Through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort, and joy.**

1 Leader: Jesus gave His mandate:

All: Share the good news

Leader: That He came to save us

All: And set us free. Refrain

2 Leader: Let none be forgotten

All: Throughout the world.

Leader: In the triune name of God

All: Go and baptize. Refrain

3 Leader: Help us to be faithful,

All: Standing steadfast,

Leader: Walking in Your precepts,

All: Led by Your Word. Refrain

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~POST SERVICE MUSIC