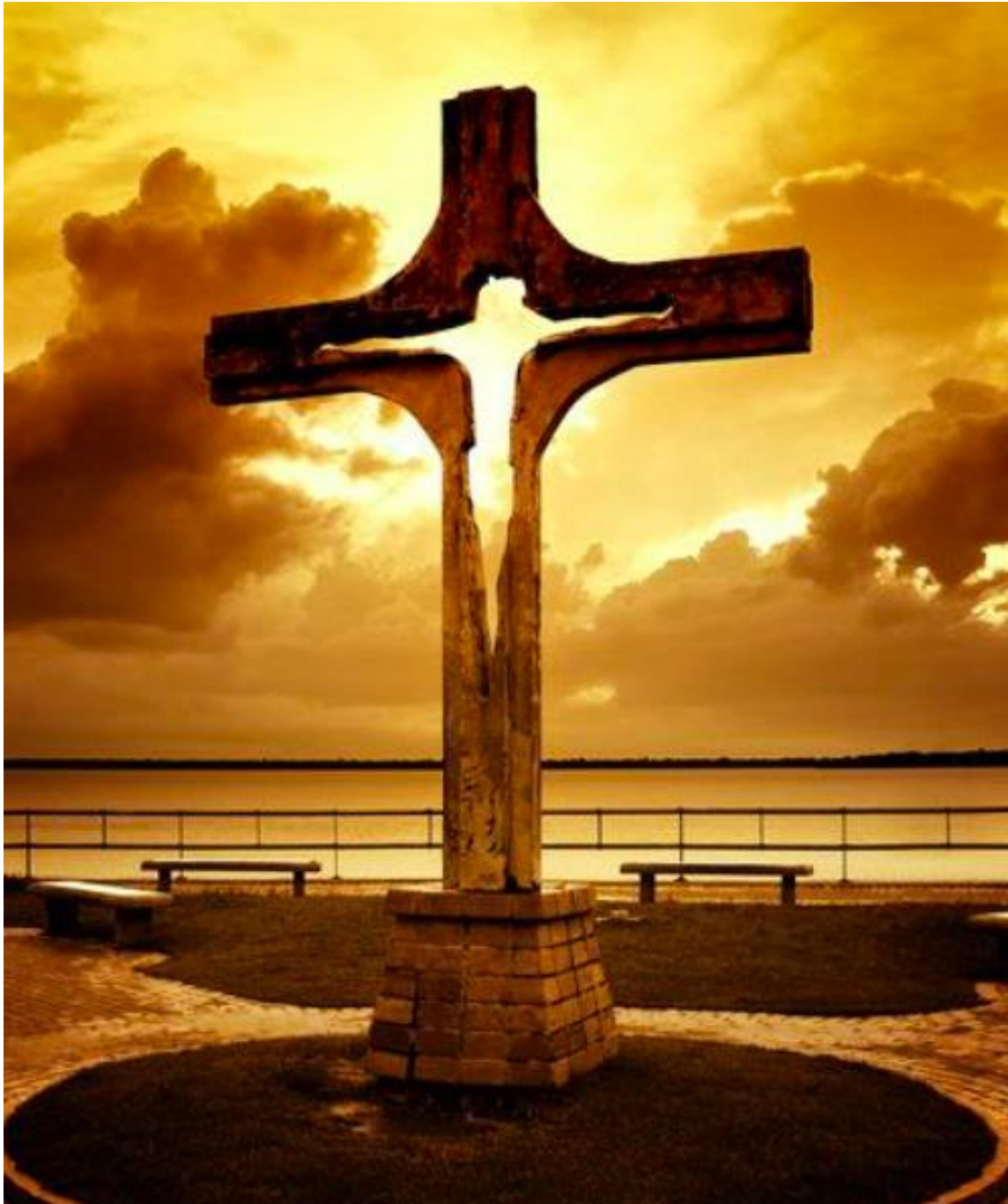


THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 29th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that even as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind ascend and continually dwell there with Him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE TODAY: Psalm 97: 1 <https://youtu.be/fEB2sbfJydo>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: John 14: 15-21 Wed.: 1 Cor. 2: 12-16 Friday: Heb. 11: 32-40
Tuesday: John 15: 17-21 Thurs: John 7: 37-39 Saturday: Isa. 41: 17-20

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 97:1.

Organist: 9 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m. – Lorraine Kaija 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer
Greeters: 9 a.m. – Frank & Ivy Parkhouse 11 a.m. –

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTI9c_OIBbMqGwLw
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

VOTER’S MEETING POSTPONED: Please note that the Voter’s meeting scheduled for today has been postponed to a later date.

PASTOR TODD & JENNIFER are celebrating 23 years of marriage this coming June 5th. They were married in Regina, SK, during Pastor Todd's vicarage year [3rd year of Seminary]. May God continue to bless their lives together.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Friday, June 3rd & Friday, June 17th at 7 p.m. at the church. We will continue our Right Now Media Bible Study entitled "One at a Time." We all want to make a difference in the world. Without a doubt, Jesus is the one who has made the biggest difference in history; but how? There are many answers we could highlight, but one phrase captures how Jesus had an impact...by focusing on the one; "One at a Time." Please feel welcome to join us!



**“Pop Up Plant, Barbecue & Mini Yard Sale”
Saturday, June 4th 9 a.m. – 12 noon.**

Get your plants in support of SOUL and learn about their ministry!
Call Lorraine for information on how to participate in setting up a table
(905) 964 5837 or helping! In support of Ukraine (and SOUL).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A reminder that Sunday School is meeting 2 more times before we start summer schedule. We hope to see you **June 5th & 12th** (yes, we will be doing a special Father's Day craft).

FATHER'S DAY DESSERTS: Come, celebrate "**fathers and father figures**" that impact our lives in such positive ways. Treat them to a slice of their favourite pie and coffee, then join in on some special time together between the services on **Sunday, June 19th**.

We thank our heavenly Father, for His example and ask that He continue to bless the fathers that support and surround us. Pie and Bake Sale proceeds will go towards defraying the costs of the July National Youth Gathering in Winnipeg.

P.S.—If anyone would like to make a pie or other goodies for the bake sale, sign up sheets are in the narthex.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: We are so excited to let you know there are 3 youth attending the gathering this July 14th - 19th in Winnipeg, plus 2 adults as ibods (assisting with the details of the gathering itself) and myself as the youth leader. We ask for your continued prayers on the gathering as committee members work to pull things all together and on us as we make plans to travel.

LMWL-C/Mary Martha are pleased to invite you to our final gathering before the summer break on **Tuesday, June 21st at 5:30 p.m.** as a pot luck. Kathy DeKouchay has the sign-up sheet for food, so if you can discuss with her what you might bring (appetizer, salad, main course, dessert) that would be helpful. Mary Saxton has graciously offered her home at 28 Emerald Common (go north to Lakeshore & just east off Vine St. turn left onto Willcher, left onto Sapphire & left onto Emerald Common.) Since parking is limited please arrange to carpool. Please also bring with you, your own plates and cutlery plus a lawn chair. We look forward to seeing you and being together.

Last Sunday Attendance: May 22nd, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 47; 11 A.M. – 36; Total: 83

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	1,463.75	85,598.78	(23,359.30)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	48.00	5,798.50	(1,893.81)
Property Improvement:			172.00	2,801.50	

A BIG THANK YOU to all of those who had a prominent hand in giving Rev. Dr. Nunes and his wife, Monique, time and space to share his book event, "Meant for More" last Tuesday night. A total of 46 people attended. The charcuterie board snacks, punch and sweets were a big crowd pleaser and the Nunes' were overwhelmed with joy over the entire evening.

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshipers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided] We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Andy & Bette Vasko and family in loving memory of John Vasko Sr.

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryll Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lceast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.



THE MARY MARTHA is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to “Christ Lutheran Church” and placed in an envelope designated for “LWML Ontario District Medical Missions”. Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Childen
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandages

NEW MORNING PRAISE

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Modern Matins

May 29, 2022 -- 9 AM worship

GATHERING SONG: *"His Name Is Wonderful"*

**Chorus: His name is Wonderful His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King Master of everything
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord**

**Verse: He's the great Shepherd the Rock of all ages
Almighty God is He
Bow down before Him love and adore Him
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord**

**Chorus: His name is Wonderful His name is Wonderful
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord
He is the mighty King Master of everything
His name is Wonderful Jesus my Lord**

CCLI Song # 1122230 -- Audrey Mieir --© 1959 Audrey Mieir. Renewed 1987 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com/terms-of-use). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 775293

SPOKEN MORNING PRAISE SCRIPTURE RESPONSES:

Open up my lips O LORD!

And my mouth will sing praises to Your Name!

Come quickly to Help me, O Lord

And be speedy to keep me away from harm.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was then, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give glory to our God, our Light and our Life!

O Come, let us worship Him.

PSALMODY

"Come Let Us Worship & Bow Down" [Dave Doherty]

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

For He is our God

And we are the people of his pasture

And the sheep of his hand

Just the sheep of his hand

For He is our God

And we are the people of his pasture

And the sheep of his hand

Just the sheep of his hand.

Writer(s): David J. Doherty

PSALM 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

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

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Thanks and praise to You, eternal Father, that Your Son Jesus ascended to Your right hand, to rule over all things as Lord. Keep Your church in the unity that the Spirit gives, and bring all creation in submission to Christ as Saviour and Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Ephesians 1: 15-23*

[St. Paul writes:] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SONG:

“Seek Ye First”

**Seek ye first the King-dom of God, and His right-eous-ness,
And all these things shall be add-ed un-to you;
Allelu, Alle-luia.**

Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 24:44-53*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

GOSPEL SONG:

“Living Hope”

**Verse 1: How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Verse 2: Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I’m Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Chorus: Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There’s salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope**

**Verse 3: Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me**

PRAYER

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you rule the world in righteousness. Give wisdom and integrity to all who govern, and give mercy and sound judgment to all who administer the law. Send your Spirit of unity and bring us to live in harmony, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you make known to us the true and living God. Guide the church into your word, and make us one in faith. Keep our Lutheran Church united in confession and purpose. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with your truth, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you water the earth and renew it, providing all we need for daily life. Protect us from fire and flood and every natural disaster, and prosper all rightful employment. Bless all travelers and vacationers, by land, sea and air;

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you gather and sanctify us in this congregation. Guide our leaders, volunteers and visionaries, so that we may do your will. Send your Spirit of unity and build up our confession and love, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you heal the sick and have compassion on those who suffer. Give hope to those in despair and heal those who are sick – especially we remember to today...(names given here....) Bless all who care for others, and give them patience and skill. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with compassion, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Almighty God and Father, since You have given us grace at this time with one faithful voice to make our common concerns to You s nave promised that when two or three are gathered in Your name You will grant their requests, fulfill now, O God, the desires and prayers of Your servants, as may be best for them, giving us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and rules with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, within our world today. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise our Lord: **Praise God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

“Crown Him With Many Crowns!”

**Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity!**

**Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his won'dring eye
At mysteries so bright!**

**Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.**

Matthew Bridges, The Passion of Jesus (London: Richardson and Son, 1852)
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/c/r/o/w/crownhim.htm>

MATINS SERVICE

[LSB adapted]

May 29, 2022 + 11 AM service

OPENING HYMN: *“Up Through Endless Ranks”* (“Angels From The Realms” LSB #367)

**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.**

**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.**

Words: Yaroslav Vajda, © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House.

Reprinted from: re-worship.blogspot.ca/2011/05/new-hymn-for-ascension-day.html

SPOKEN MATINS RESPONSES:

O Lord, open my lips!

And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son + and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Praise to You, O Christ;

King Who comes to save us.

Blessed be God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Oh come, let us worship Him.

PRAISE PSALM VENITE

COME, LET US SING

Psalm 95: 1-6

© *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal 1996*

**O come, and sing unto the Lord, come blend your voice toward Him Who saves.
with thankful hearts we enter now, to offer songs of glorious praise.**

**Our saving Lord is a great God a pow’rful King above all gods.
His steady hands embraces earth; The mountain peaks display His worth.**

**The sea and land divinely placed, our Maker, bow before His face,
His pasture nourishes all sheep, He’ll shepherd, guard and safely keep.**

**All praise and glory be to You, the Father, Son and Spirit, Who,
Protects and shelters us from fear, His holy name this day revere.**

(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: “All Praise To Thee!” LSB # 883)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Blessed be God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Oh come, let us worship Him.

Thanks and praise to You, eternal Father, that Your Son Jesus ascended to Your right hand, to rule over all things as Lord. Keep Your church in the unity that the Spirit gives, and bring all creation in submission to Christ as Saviour and Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM 47:

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

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

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

GOD'S WORD

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

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

The Epistle: *Ephesians 1: 15-23* [St. Paul writes:] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL VERSE:

"Up Through Endless"

("Angels From The Realms" LSB #367)

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!

Words: Yaroslav Vajda, © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House.

Reprinted from: re-worship.blogspot.ca/2011/05/new-hymn-for-ascension-day.html

Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 24:44-53*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

OFFICE HYMN:

"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus!"

LSB # 821

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "All - e - lu - ia! Sing to Jes - us! His the scep - ter his the throne. All - e - lu - ia! His the triumph, his the Vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a mighty flood. Jes - us Out of ev - ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

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'?

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, here on earth our food and 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! King eternal, You, the Lord of lords 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.

Reprinted from: www.hymnary.org/page/fetch/ELW2006/656/low/392

MESSAGE

EASTER SEASON CANTICLE: "This Joyful Eastertide"

1. This joy - ful East - er - tide A - way with sin and
 2. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son
 3. Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill

Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day pris - on,
 Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en,
 a - ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

THE PRAYERS

SPOKEN KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you rule the world in righteousness. Give wisdom and integrity to all who govern, and give mercy and sound judgment to all who administer the law. Send your Spirit of unity and bring us to live in harmony, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you make known to us the true and living God. Guide the church into your word, and make us one in faith. Keep our Lutheran Church united in confession and purpose. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with your truth, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you water the earth and renew it, providing all we need for daily life. Protect us from fire and flood and every natural disaster, and prosper all rightful employment. Bless all travelers and vacationers, by land, sea and air;

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you gather and sanctify us in this congregation. Guide our leaders, volunteers and visionaries, so that we may do your will. Send your Spirit of unity and build up our confession and love, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Praise to You, ascended Lord, for you heal the sick and have compassion on those who suffer. Give hope to those in despair and heal those who are sick – especially we remember to today...(names given here....) Bless all who care for others, and give them patience and skill. Send your Spirit of unity and fill us with compassion, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our concerns come to You –**

Almighty God and Father, since You have given us grace at this time with one faithful voice to make our common concerns to You s nave promised that when two or three are gathered in Your name You will grant their requests, fulfill now, O God, the desires and prayers of Your servants, as may be best for them, giving us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and rules with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, within our world today. **Amen.**

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

“Crown Him With Many Crowns!”

**Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity!**

**Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his won’dring eye
At mysteries so bright!**

**Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.**

Matthew Bridges, The Passion of Jesus (London: Richardson and Son, 1852)
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/c/r/o/w/crownhim.htm>

REV. TODD HOFFFS

Ascension of our Lord (observed, Series C)

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

May 29, 2022

F, S + HS. Amen.

Endings are sometimes better than beginnings. Completion of a job well done.

The last chapter of a compelling book. Even TV shows. I love finales better than season premiers.

How the disciples have changed since they witnessed Jesus' 1st miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding....and now, He's still opening up the Scriptures to them before HE ascends.

Reminds me of a scene on the final episode to the well-known TV show of the 70s' & 80's – MASH. As the army surgical hospital packs up after the war ends, each character says goodbye in their own unique manner. Doctors Hawkeye and BJ, who have been very anti-military and rarely went along with army regulations, not to mention, against the war, get ready to say goodbye to their commander, Col. Potter (a vet of WW1, 2 and regular army). Col Potter is ready to leave the camp on his horse Sophie. Both Drs. Hawkeye and BJ want to give something to their beloved col 1 last time. "We have something to give you, Col," they say. "It's not much, but it comes from the heart"...they stand straight, and offer a full proper military salute. A tear-filled eye Col Salutes back and rides off into the sunset.

Jesus sends off His disciples one last time by opening up their minds and blessing them. They come so far and yet have so much more to do, as the infant church needs them and the ministry of witness yet to come.

Jesus' disciples. The last to touch him. The last to hear his voice. Only Paul on the Damascus road and John on Patmos will ever visually see Him again. But once the risen Jesus becomes the ascended Jesus, the way things had been and the way things continue to be is: no more hearing, no more touching, no more seeing Jesus. **THEY WILL BE HIS WITNESSES IN THE WORLD.** The church will be the embodiment of Jesus from now on. You can not cling to Him until He ascends to the Father.

We rejoice in Jesus' ascension. We proclaim in our creeds, "he ascended into heaven" as a statement of our faith. Ascension does not mean "no more Jesus"! Ascension means "so much more Jesus" yet to come!

Being a witness comes with a fair amount of responsibility. If you're an eyewitness to a crime, you'll likely make a statement to police and maybe even testify in court. If you're a witness for a wedding, you'll have to sign the legal document indicating that you heard and saw everything that day.

If you're a witness for a baptism, you pray for that person, put them in mind of their baptism, and maybe even promise to take care of them if need be.

Witnesses don't do much good if they keep what they've seen to themselves. Sharing the news is the point of witnessing. The disciples are eyewitnesses of what Jesus did for about three years as a teaching rabbi on earth. While at times they may have forgotten that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. They may have balked at having to let down fishing nets at the wrong time of the day only to bring in a gigantic catch! So it shouldn't surprise us that Jesus still has to enlarge their minds and hearts regarding Jesus and what He's come to do. What the law of Moses and the psalms and the prophets bear witness. That He had to suffer, die on a cross, rise from the dead and ASCEND back to heaven to sit at the Father's right hand.

This account in Luke's Gospel is at the very end of Jesus' time. He came to us born humble in a stable and yet with angelic fanfare, and worship from shepherds and wise men alike. As a man who endured the constant temptation of the Devil and the world around him to sin, yet he remained perfect. His obedience to his heavenly Father's plan of saving the world wasn't just really good; it was flawless.

And Jesus' disciples along with Mary Magdalene and other women stayed with Jesus nearly every moment of every day. Seeing miracles. Hearing His Word. They knew who Jesus was—the smart teacher, the great provider, even the promised Savior. They weren't always so sure, though, on what exactly he was going to do or how he was going to do it.

Imagine what went through the disciples' heads on Good Friday as a mob entices the weak-willed Roman governor to condemn a man that he himself admitted was innocent? The one everyone thought was going to fix everything ends up crucified, dead, and buried. The anguish, the emotion, from a bloodied cross to empty grave clothes. He is risen. But nowhere to be found. At a moment

when they might have just been starting to process that their dear friend and teacher was gone, He comes to them bringing peace.

And even the ascension. As Jesus bodily rises up above them, drawn upward into a cloud on the way to heaven, he warns them not to leave Jerusalem, the center of all divine activity. They need to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit as promised. They may be looking for the final Israeli restoration, an earthly kingdom, just like they hoped when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus' power isn't about worldly government. Its about witnessing the faith.

The ascending Jesus is awe inspiring for sure. Its' easy straining necks peering upward, hoping for a further sign, for a magic act, for a cloud spelling out "I love you." Suddenly, two men "stand near." Just like the two men sitting at the empty tomb warning the women to cease looking for the living among the dead. Living beings aren't found in graveyards any more than living beings remain in the sky. He'll return in the same way He came, but not now, or tomorrow or even next year. Ours is not to wonder when, but to GO as Jesus says, as HIS WITNESSES.

We're "his witnesses" to the world, not his calculators for his return. But it's far safer, far less demanding, to be a speculator than a witness. Speculators write books, hold seminars that attract thousands, rake in profits, trying to figure out time for Jesus' return. Witnesses, on the other hand, speak and show the truth of the gospel: the truth of justice for the whole world, the love of enemies, and the care for the down trodden and outcast.

In fact, Jesus said IT IS FINISHED so that faith and renewal and transformation and repentance and forgiveness can be shouted out loudly in HIS NAME as HIS WITNESSES.

Jesus is clear there's nothing left to accomplish. There's nothing that needs to be done by anyone on this earth to make up for or remove sin.

In Jesus' name that sin is gone. Nothing that anyone can do can pay for sin and no one has to. His death and resurrection destroyed death and brought eternal life to the world!

SO the disciples and US ARE NOW WITNESSES to these things. THE Greek word for WITNESS is Martyrion, which is where we get the English word MARTYR. So, does that mean being Jesus' witness involves dying? YES! But not necessarily like the early Christians thrown to the lions, although various persecutions could come and will come in various communities of faith. What's most urgent is our dying to self, as the old sinner in us is crucified to the cross daily through remembrance

of Baptism where all that harms us died with Christ. And once this dying happens, our new self-rises back up to new life, active, witnessing to the hope we have as Christ lives in us and His Spirit animates our steps through this life.

So Jesus still comes and opens up our minds to understand the Scriptures. So that with eyes of faith we grasp the simple message that Jesus needed to suffer and die for us and the world and that in rising and ascending HE seals this as complete for all time. Evil has been defeated. Sin cannot keep us locked in eternal death. Life is new and Jesus' ascension proves it. He has gone where we will all go one day.

Until then, we are His witnesses. Our lives still proclaim the best sermon in how we as Christians live our lives, serve all in need and how we cope with life in an ever-changing world. For so many people have grown tired of the faith and no doubt can't see anything good coming out of any church doors. The biggest persecutor of the faith we see is apathy and disinterest. That's where our lives come into it. We show forth Christ and His amazing grace in how we react to life. The very Flesh and Blood of Christ we will soon eat and drink proclaims Jesus' saving death until He returns again. We're not called to fix all that's wrong. We're not called to make people toe the line. We're not law mongers or legalists or doormats for the world.

We are simply JESUS' WITNESSES. We share what we see and hear and believe. As we cling to Christ in faith because of His Word and Sacraments among us which keep us secure and nourished in the faith. How we live, Whom we trust, unto Whom belongs all honour and worship, we are, until we dine with Jesus as His Table in Heaven, HIS WITNESSES.

Amen.