

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## *The Ascension of Our Lord* *May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

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## The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting Three with Holy Communion (LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an \*)*

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**Opening Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing** **LSB 493**

**Confession and Absolution\*** **LSB 184**

**Introit\*** *(Ps. 47:1-2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11)*

Men of Galilee,

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alleluia.

**This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,**

**will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia.**

Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,**

**a great king over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,

the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**God reigns over the nations;**

**God sits on his holy throne.**

**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.**

Men of Galilee,

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alleluia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,

will come I the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia.

**Kyrie\*** **LSB 186**

**Gloria in Excelsis\*** **LSB 187**

**Collect:** 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.

### **Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:5-15**

<sup>5</sup>The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.” <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” <sup>11</sup>And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. <sup>13</sup>And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup>Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. <sup>15</sup>Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

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

**Gradual:** Alleluia. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia. You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train. Alleluia.

### **Epistle: Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the

Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> And 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But 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.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and 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.”

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

**Sequence Hymn: Christ is Arisen**

**LSB 459-460**

P: Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! The Lamb the sheep has ransomed: Christ, who only is sinless, Reconciling sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, Reigns immortal.

**C: LSB 459 Stz 1**

P: “Speak, Mary, declaring What you saw when wayfaring.” “The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection; Bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting. My Lord, my hope, is arisen; To Galilee He goes before you.”

**C: LSB 459 Stz 2**

P: Christ indeed from death is risen, Our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

**C: LSB 459 Stz 3**

**Holy Gospel\*: Mark 16:14-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not

believed those who saw him after he had risen. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” <sup>19</sup> So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed\*** **LSB 191**

**Hymn: See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph** **LSB 494**

**Sermon:** Having ascended to the right hand of God, Christ rules over His church and defends her against all enemies!

**Offertory\***

**Prayer of the Church\***

*(Livestream will end at this time)*

**Service of the Sacrament\*** **LSB 194**

**Distribution Hymns:** **LSB 495, 491**

**Nunc Dimittis\*** **LSB 199**

**Concluding Collect\***

**Benediction\*** **LSB 202**

**Closing Hymn: On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build** **LSB 492**