

The Order of Service

The Greeting

P This is the day that the Lord has made.
C Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P We are transformed in Christ
C to share the hope of eternal life.

Welcome

The Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn • 493 **"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"**

△ *Please stand on the final verse.*

The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

Silence for meditation and reflection

C I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I 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. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Introit

Psalm 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5

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

C **The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”**

P The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind,

C **“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”**

P The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings on the day of His wrath.

C **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.**

P God has gone up with a shout,

C **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

The Kyrie ∞ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise • "This Is the Feast"

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.





1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

- 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.

(Jesus ascends into heaven; the Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes ¹¹ 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."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days, Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and

“Let another take his office.”

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 John 5:9-15

(“Whoever has the Son has life.”)

⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:18

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake, I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn • 491 “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”

△ *Please stand on the final verse.*

The Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

C **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.

The Offering

Offertory Hymn • 537 “Beautiful Savior”

Please stand on the last verse as the offering is brought forward.

The Prayer of the Church

P In Your great mercy, O Lord, You have accomplished all things for our salvation and bore upon Your Son the cost of our redemption. Deliver us from doubt and fear, that we may know with courage the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen and be made bold to confess this truth before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In Your mercy, You sustained Your church in the time of waiting for the promise of the Spirit to be fulfilled. Sustain us in our wait for the completion of all that Christ began by His death and resurrection, that we not grow weary of trusting You nor betray the hope You planted in us in our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide Your church, O Lord, that we be united in faith and proclaim with one voice Him whose death, resurrection, and ascension have delivered us from sin and its death. Make us of one mind and one heart, that we serve our neighbor with joy to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Deliver us from war and violence, and bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear the voice of Your Word and act on our behalf, that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives in this place. Bless those who protect us here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In the midst of temptation, make us strong, and in the midst of trials, help us endure with patience and conviction the days of trouble. Bless especially those who suffer illness or infirmity, grief, or pain, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Keep Your church and the work of the Kingdom ever before us, that we may daily pray to the Father even as our Lord continues to intercede on our behalf. Uplift us in hope that what we pray for, we may be willing to work toward until that day when all our enemies

and trials shall end and we shall be united with the saints who went before us, once and forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Prepare our hearts, O Lord, that we may approach Your altar with repentance and the confession of Your body and blood and here receive to our blessing the very body and blood of Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, we pray You to grant us for the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying, He has destroyed death, and by His rising again, He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus ∞ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His

body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. 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. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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 Pax Domini *↻* The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

The Angus Dei • 550..... "Lamb of God"



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



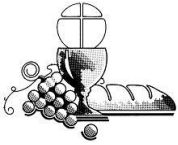
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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The Distribution of Holy Communion • The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine. We believe the Lord's Supper is a means of grace in that it provides forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal.

Participants are encouraged to ask these questions: Do I believe that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior and that it is His true body and blood given to me along with the bread and wine? Do I intend with the help of God to repent of sin as I seek to follow Him?

If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold to a different confession of faith, please come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

Communion Hymn • 529..... **"Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus"**

Communion Hymn • 539..... **"Christ Is the World's Redeemer"**

△ Please stand on the last verse.

Communion Hymn • 490..... **"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"**

The Post-Communion Canticle

"Thank the Lord"



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

The Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Leave us not orphans of Your love, O Lord, but continue to protect and lead those whom You have redeemed. As we have come to Your Table and received Your own gifts of life and salvation, send us forth as instruments of that life and salvation to the world around us. Grant us the Holy Spirit, that we may recognize Your voice in the Gospel and proclaim Your Gospel without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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 • 525 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Pastor Craig Reiter

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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The Homecoming that Precedes Ours

While [Jesus] was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.

—*Luke 24:51*

Homecoming is usually a happy occasion. It is that for college alumni returning to their alma mater, for family members reunited after an absence, for persons who completed their assignments and can come home again. A well-known song from the Civil war era expresses happiness at the thought of a soldier's homecoming. A hearty welcome awaits him: "The church bell will peal with joy; the laurel [wreath] is ready now to grace his loyal brow."

There was joy when the Son of God, having completed His work on earth, returned home in triumph. Jesus' ascension, 40 days after His resurrection, marked His heavenly homecoming. Saint Paul wrote of it: "He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe" (Ephesians 4:10). He, the Maker of all things, now resumed His throne in heaven to rule the universe. Sitting at the Father's right hand, He especially governs and protects the church, of which He is the Head.

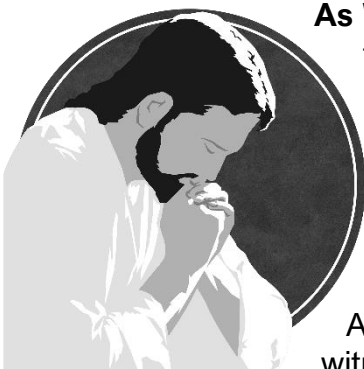
But our Lord's ascension was more than a homecoming. This event was to have a sequel. Before He left, He promised to return, saying: "If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3). That place, He explained, is His Father's house of many rooms. On the mount of the ascension the angel repeated the promise: "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" (Acts 1:11). That "same way" is not only a visible return, but also one in power and great glory. The Savior's homecoming

occasioned joy both in heaven and on earth. We are told that the disciples “returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52). They continually praised God, both at the temple and in the Upper Room, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. For us, too, the ascension is a festival of joy. We are happy over Jesus’ triumph and for His promise to come back to take us home.

Thank You, O Lord, for the home in which I now live. And thank You for the eternal home that has been prepared for me by my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



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As We Gather • The Easter season finds its culmination in the high priestly prayer of Jesus. With this we are reminded that the Lord is praying for us, for our faith, and for our unity in the faith, so that we may fulfill His purpose in making known all that He has done. It should be of great comfort to us that on the night of His betrayal, our Lord does not pray for Himself but for His disciples and those who will believe through their witness. As we confront the mission of the church to be His witnesses still, He does not relent praying for us still. United in faith and living together our common life under His Word and at His Table, we are strengthened in unity and in mission.