

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:44-53

Jesus ascends, and instead of being sad, his disciples are filled with joy. They understood that Christ's ascension marked his coronation as the King.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN #472: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" - see slides

SERMON: Jesus Christ Gave Us His Ministry

Acts 1:1-11

1. Through his Spirit
2. As his witnesses
3. Until his return

HYMN #476: "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" - see slides

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie - see slides

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, BLESSING - see slides

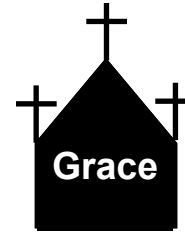
HYMN #700: "Draw Us To Thee" - see slides

Thank you to our Worship Team:

- Pianist: Connie Hauf*
- Live Stream: Tom Meineke*
- Power Point: Donna Langman*
- Ushers: Dennis & Shawn Egerer*
- Greeters: Teresa & Isaac Egerer*

Thank you to our Presiding Minister, Pastor David Laabs

Please join us in the fellowship hall for ice cream following this service.



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
2426 North Rapids Road
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220
Office Phone 682-7377

Vacancy Pastor David Laabs
Robert Fink, Staff Minister
www.graceLutheran-church.com
gracelutheran@tm.net

Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am, Mondays 6:30pm



HE LIVES TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH

ASCENSION
Thursday, May 18, 2023

**ASCENSION
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023**

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. Come worship with us again!

Listening Assist Aids are available. Please see an usher.

Today's Theme: He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church

We understand why God became man in the person of Christ. The Savior needed to be able to suffer and die to atone for mankind's sin. What is fascinating is that when the work of redemption was completed, the Son of God did not set aside his humanity. The God-man ascended into heaven. It is a human, our brother, who sits on heaven's throne.

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. While on earth, Jesus had set aside so much of his divine power. But Jesus now picks all that power back up again. He ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. He lives! And he is in absolute and perfect control, ruling over Creation for the eternal well-being of his friends. And that is what we are!

The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

Service of Evening Prayer - Page 215

VESPERS - see slides

HYMN OF LIGHT - see slides

PRAYER - see slides

PSALM 141 - see slides

PRAYER - see slides

PSALM 47 - see slides

PSALM PRAYER - see slides

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Jesus tells his disciples that although he is going to ascend, they will not be left alone. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to them and to us.

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? 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."

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

St. Paul teaches that Jesus ascended so that he might fill all creation with his presence and his power. Nothing is outside his control.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**