

# Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 21, 2020 ✝ Mount Olive Lutheran Church



## Focus on the Season: The Ascension of Our Lord

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Today the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that God's Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. We are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the Word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

*Everything for worship is now included in one video. You may wish to print these pages before worship, as you won't be switching back and forth anymore and it would be helpful to have an order of service to follow along in the home.*

*There are several places where you are invited to respond or even lead; these are clear in the video.*



## Centering and Gathering

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Light your candle. **[Start the video by clicking here](#)**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "Joie et Clarté des Corps Glorieux" from *Les Corp Glorieux* Olivier Messaien  
*Recorded live by Cantor Cherwien at Mount Olive on Wednesday, May 13, 2020*

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

EASTER GREETING

*Greet one another with the good news!*

☐ Christ is risen! Alleluia!

☑ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN: ELW 393, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

*Sung at Mount Olive on the feast of the Ascension, May 10, 2018.*

## Word

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-11; reader – assisting minister Lora Dundek

*Luke writes:* <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> 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; <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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

PSALM: Psalm 47

*Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

*The refrain is sung by the choir in a setting by Heinrich Schütz.*

*The verses are sung by all.*

*Sung at Mount Olive on the feast of the Ascension, May 10, 2018.*

Clap your hands, | all you peoples; \* shout to God with a | joyful sound.  
For the LORD Most High is | to be feared: \* a great king over | all the earth,  
who subdues the | peoples under us, \* and the nations un- | der our feet;  
who chooses our inheri- | tance for us, \* the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.  
God has gone up | with a shout, \* the LORD with the sound | of the ram’s horn.  
Sing praises to | God, sing praises; \* sing praises to our | king, sing praises.  
For God is king of | all the earth; \* sing praises | with a song.  
God reigns o- | ver the nations; \* God is en- | throned on high.  
The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham. \* The rulers of  
the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23; reader – assisting minister Lora Dundek

*Paul writes:* <sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 388, “Be Not Afraid”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Third Sunday of Easter, year A, May 4, 2014.*

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.”

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

## SERMON

### The Light Has Changed

Vicar Bristol Reading

*Silence for reflection*

## HYMN: ELW 392, “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, year C, May 8, 2016; Joyce Brown, organist.*

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Lora Dundek, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ.*

*Respond to each petition: **Hear our prayer.***

## PEACE

*Please greet others with Christ's peace.*

## OFFERING

*There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:*

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

## **Sending**

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LORD'S PRAYER AND BLESSING *Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Response to benediction: **Amen***

## HYMN: ELW 475, “Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the feast of the Ascension, May 10, 2018.*

DISMISSAL *Someone may lead the dismissal for the others:*

🔊 Christ is risen! Alleluia! 🗣️ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

🔊 Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. 🗣️ **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE:

Improvisation

*Recorded by Cantor Cherwien at Mount Olive on the feast of the Ascension, May 25, 2017.*