

Following Jesus  
**Ascension Sunday**  
**“Worshipping Jesus”**

May 21, 2023

**As We Gather**

Today we celebrate the ascension of Jesus. It is the Coronation of Christ when God "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given" and "placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the Church" (Eph. 1:20-22). After the ascension the disciples continuously worshiped Jesus at the temple in the full knowledge of who He is. Followers of Jesus worship Him continuously. What does it mean to continuously worship Jesus in our lives?

**Welcome**

**+ Gathering +**

**“Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels” LSB 491**

Up through endless ranks of angels,  
Cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heavenly throne ascending,  
Having vanquished all their fears,  
Christ looks down upon His faithful,  
Leaving them in happy tears.

To our lives of wanton wandering  
Send Your promised Spirit-Guide,  
Through our lives of fear and failure  
With Your power and love abide:  
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,  
To an endless Eastertide.

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!

**(Please rise)**  
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!

**Invocation**

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

**Confession and Absolution**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **“Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go”**

Oh love that will not let me go  
I rest my weary soul in Thee  
I give You back this life I owe  
And in Your ocean depths its flow  
May richer fuller be

Oh light that follows all my way  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee  
And my heart restores it's borrowed ray  
And in Your sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter fairer be

Rejoice my heart  
Rejoice my soul  
My Savior God has come to Thee

Rejoice my heart  
You've been made whole  
By a love that will not let me go

Oh joy that seeks me through the pain  
I cannot close my heart to Thee  
I chase the rainbow through the rain  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That more shall tearless be

Oh cross that lifts and hold my head  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee  
I lay in dust life's glory dead  
From the ground their blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be

**Prayer**

**Children's Church**

**+ Service of the Word +**

**First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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."

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

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "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."

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Holy Gospel Luke 24:44-52**

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."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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."

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

### **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon**

***"Worshiping Jesus"***

**Offering**

## Prayers

*Please add your prayer requests to the chat.*

### Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

### St. John's People and Families

Dean, Lori Hunt, & Hunter Bledsoe  
Melanie, Cullen, Trent, Carson, & Brodie Mooers  
Ann Marie and Raquel Howle  
Tony, Leslie, Colin, & Erin Nicholson  
Pastor Ted, Elaine & Stacie Zimmerman  
Guillume, Ashley, Benjamin, & Olivia Boudet  
Steven, Coleen, & Luciano Giovannoni  
Andrew, Ali, & Mattison Holloway  
Ibrahima, Cathy, & Gina Ngom  
Trevor, Stephanie, & Brooklyn Sheehan

### + The Service of Holy Communion +

#### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

People: **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.**

### Words of Institution

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

### Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**People: Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**People: Amen.** *(Take and drink)*

### "Fade With Our Voices"

1. After all the songs are sung	in Jesus name
And our prayers for kingdom come	So if we raise our hands high
Did we bring honor to the words we sing?	Let us also reach them out
Does our worship have hands	If we lift our voices up
Does it have feet	Let it be the sound of love
Does it stand up in the face of injustice	Let our worship have hands
Does our worship bow down	Let it have feet
Does it run deep	Let it stand up in the face of injustice
Is it more than a song that fades with our voices	Let our worship bow down
Does it fade with our voices?	Let it run deep
	It's more than a song that fades with our voices
2. Lord, it's you we long to please	It won't fade with our voices
Make our lives a melody	
That we proclaim when we live	

**“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” LSB 492**

1 On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of mine ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the head is, there as well  
I know his members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.

2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne,  
Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart shall rest in him alone,  
No other rest remaining;

For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.

3 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling your ascension,  
That I may serve you faithfully,  
Adorning your redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.

**Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

**Prayer**

**Benediction**

**“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493**

A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ by a road before untrod,  
Ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with His faithful foll’wers see  
Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To whom two shining angels cry,  
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
“This is the Savior,” thus they say;  
“This is His glorious triumph day!”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
“You see Him now, ascending high

Up to the portals of the sky.”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
“Here after Jesus You shall see  
Returning in great majesty.”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,  
And be our future great reward.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Then, throned with You forever, we  
Shall praise Your name eternally.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*(Please rise)*

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to You let earth accord:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

### Memory Verse for This Week

Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise His holy name.  
<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits—  
<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*Psalm 103:1 - 5*

### Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Gunnar De Young & Ruth Peterson
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Gerry Schneider Andrea Clark, Joel Wahlers
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	Bev & Clint Holdsworth
Projection Technician	Bob Klein
Children's Church	Nina Montes
Worship Band	Thane Knutson, Heidi Schmid, Steve Rock, Judi Rock

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