

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONOVER, NC
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 9, 2024
7:00 PM**

PRELUDE & WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN** LSB # 493 "*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*"

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 them the 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!

"Hereafter 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!

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!

THE INVOCATION:

PASTOR: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: AMEN!

THE OCCASION FOR OUR WORSHIP:

PASTOR: And 40 days after His resurrection Jesus gathered His Disciples together and gave them this charge:

CONG: "AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"

PASTOR: After He had said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

CONG: THEY WERE LOOKING INTENTLY UP INTO THE SKY AS HE WAS GOING, WHEN SUDDENLY TWO MEN DRESSED IN WHITE STOOD BESIDE THEM.

PASTOR: They said: "Men of Galilee, 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."

CONG: WE LIVE THEN KNOWING OF HIS PRESENCE AMONG US, YET WAITING FOR HIS RETURN. AMEN.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

THE READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD

Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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."

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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 one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴Then he said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

THE SERMON HYMN LSB # 821 “*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*”

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.

As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,

Here on earth both priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

stjohnsconover.com/donate

THE RESPONSE HYMN LSB # 492 “*On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build*”

On Christ’s ascension I now build The hope of my 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 will come and call them.

Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will 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.

O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

PASTOR: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless
you and keep you.

CONG: AMEN

CLOSING HYMN LSB # 525 "*Crown Him with Many Crowns*"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE