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**Ascension /**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

“As they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.” *Acts 1:9*

**AS WE GATHER**

“I’ll see you soon!” So says the parent, spouse, or friend leaving for an errand or a short trip, with certainty that time together will soon be had again. “I’ll see you soon!” so says Jesus as He departs and ascends into heaven. And though it has not been hours or days or even weeks, rather nearly two thousand years later, we still hold to the certainty of His promise that we shall see Him again soon at His time. Until that day, though, we are wise to not stay looking up into the sky, as the disciples began to do long ago. Rather, we heed His mission to make disciples and keep ourselves prepared for that day. Even as we long to see Him soon, we know that Jesus is enough for us every day, and we take comfort in the fact that our ascended Lord Jesus remains present with us now, in this life, even amid troubles and trials. We hold on to His promises by the faith given, and we anticipate that joyful day when He will come again in the same way He was taken up into heaven.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:1-11

Pastor: A reading from Acts, chapter 1, verses 1-11:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 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.

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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 47:2–3; 124:8*

Pastor: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

**People: He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

**People: We confess before God and before one another that we have failed to live in the image of Christ. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: We stand guilty before our Father in heaven and are in need of His forgiveness.

**People: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: Because of and in Christ’s continued presence through all our days,

**People: renew us and strengthen us for Christlike living and service in Your kingdom until the day when we ascend to the heavenly realm where we shall be in the presence of Christ forever and ever.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, your ascended Lord, has heard your confession, and He alone has the power to forgive all sin. His presence and grace are enough for us in this time and eternally. God has promised His merciful forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus, to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OPENING HYMN** *“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 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!**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**CONTINUED FIRST READING** Acts 1:12-26 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1John 5:9-15 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 17:11b-19 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love Thee, truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine!

**SERMON “*Kept”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER-SUNG** (*LSB*, front inside cover)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* (*LSB* 770)

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear—

all because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, for the gift of forgiveness won by Your Son’s offering on the cross and for the strengthening of our souls and bodies by His body and blood. Go with us now, and keep us steadfast in Your Word through the blessed days of this great and Holy Week and to our eternal life with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN** *“Crown Him with Many Crowns”* (*LSB* 525)

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.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**