



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

June 1, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW Setting 2

*Watchword: And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself. - John 12:32 ESV*

PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER



Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The people stand.



Gathering

ENTRANCE HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Green Book 157

Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center aisle at this time.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

ASCENSION DIALOG

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A: God has gone up with a shout:
C: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

A: Sing praises to God, sing praises!
C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

A: Christ reigns over the nations:
C: He sits at God's right hand in the heavenly places. Amen!


THE KYRIE A=Leader; C=all voices



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,




let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.




A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men


THE HYMN OF PRAISE A=Leader; C=all voices




A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



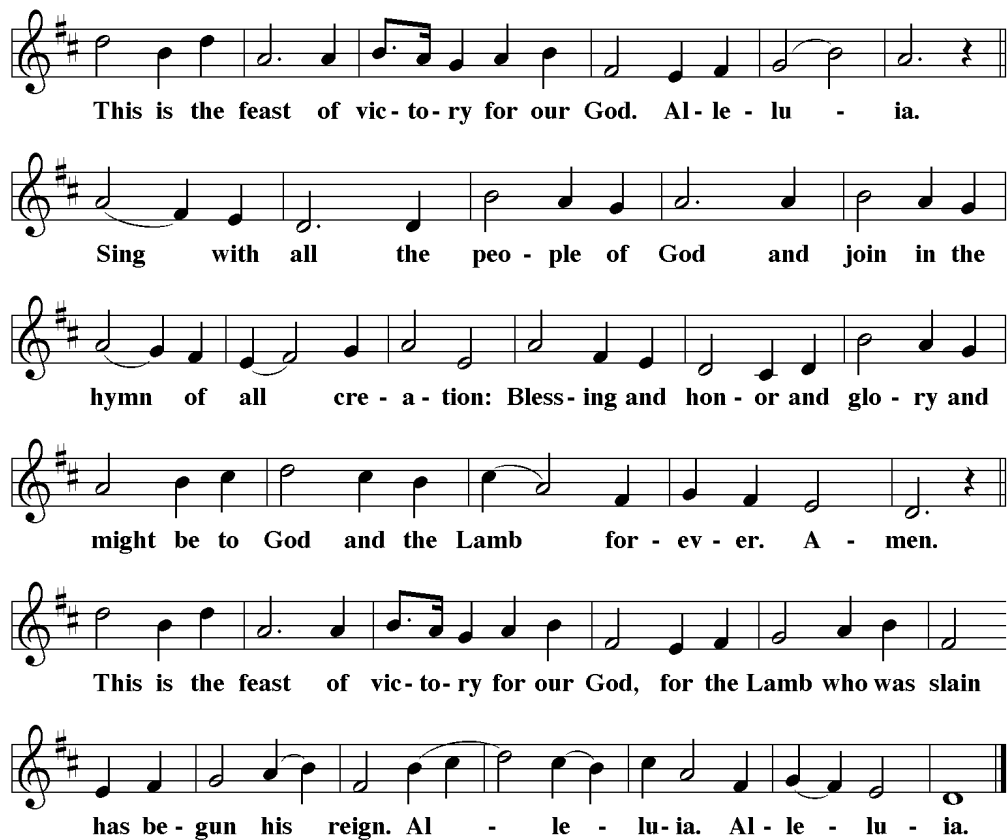
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

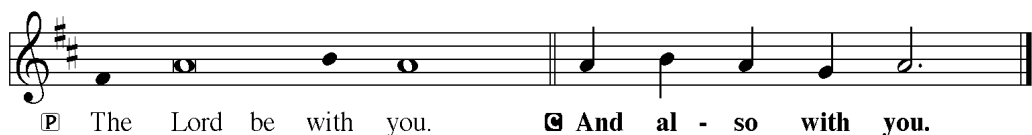
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless- ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu- ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.



The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

L: A reading from Acts.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles, which tells of the earliest days of the Christian community, begins with this passage of Jesus' ascension into heaven and his promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

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. ³He presented himself alive to them 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."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 47

The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.



¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;* shout to God with a | cry of joy.
²**For the Lord Most High is | to be feared;* he is the great king
over | all the earth.**
³He subdues the | peoples under us,* and the nations un- | der our feet.
⁴**He chooses our inheri- | tance for us,* the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.**
⁵God has gone up | with a shout,* the Lord with the sound | of the ram’s horn.
⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;* sing praises to our | king,
sing praises.**
⁷For God is King of | all the earth;* sing praises with | all your skill.
⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;* God sits upon his | holy throne.**
⁹The nobles of the peoples have gath- | ered together* with the people of
the | God of Abraham.
¹⁰**The rulers of the earth be- | long to God,* and he is high- | ly exalted.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

L: A reading from Ephesians.

As our Lord Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, he has also ascended to the right hand of God the Father, having authority over all things seen and unseen.

15 For 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 the 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.

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

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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 for the 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.” ⁵⁰And 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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

RECOGNITION OF OUR 2025 GRADUATES

The people may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Green Book 265

The people stand.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from

true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition: A: Lord, in your mercy, C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.



The Liturgy of Holy Communion

THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The people stand.

P Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
C bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,
C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C: 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.

THE FRACTION

P: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.
C: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The people may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.


Hymns during distribution: Green Book 223, 518

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING


The people please stand.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.


POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE




☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

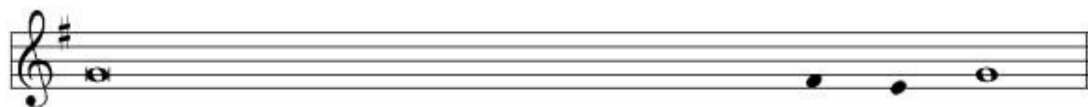
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.



Sending

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



G A - men

A: Go in peace. Christ is risen!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Green Book 158

THE POSTLUDE

We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

June 1 Justin, martyr at Rome, c. 165

June 3 John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, 1963

June 5 Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, 754

June 7 Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, 1866

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PENTECOST (JUNE 8)

Genesis 11:1-9

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

John 14:8-17 [25-27]