

# Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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I AM  
WITH YOU  
*always*

*Matthew 28:20*

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

**Organic Word † Hybrid Worship † Local Work**

# The Ascension of our Lord

June 2, 2019

In the name of Jesus, the Ascended One, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Whether this is your first time with us or Peace is your church home, we're glad you're here! If you :



- . . . have questions, please ask; we'll do our best to answer;
- . . . need the restrooms, they're down the hall past the office;
- . . . brought your children, thank you (Jesus loves having them here, too!);
- . . . can stick around after worship, we'd love to chat over coffee & snacks;
- . . . would like to talk to Pastor, please give him a call (720.315.0910)

As we worship the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*I Corinthians 14:33, 40*), we'll use the path of worship printed in this booklet. Today, we adore the King who promises, *"I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* (*Matthew 20:28a*), as we consider the worship theme:

Ascended & Assured

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## *The Greeting and Invocation*

*Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless and be with them (Mt. 18:20); that's why we call on ("invoke") his name and magnify the praise of the One, true God.*

*Minister* : In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* : Amen.

## ***A Reading of Psalm 47 & Sung Response (Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven)***

*Psalm 47 compels hearts of thanks to gladly adore the King with songs of praise. Stanzas from the hymn, Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven (red hymnal melody 169) are interspersed to summon praise.*

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. <sup>2</sup> How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! <sup>3</sup> He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. <sup>4</sup> He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.



***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim  
For the world's salvation bled –  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.***

<sup>5</sup> God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. <sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.



***“Alleluia, Christ is risen!***

***Death at last has met defeat;  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil  
In confusion and retreat;  
Once he died, and once was buried:  
Now he lives forevermore.  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
Whom we worship and adore!***

~ please stand if you are able ~

<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.



*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Glory be to God on high;*

*Alleluia to the Savior*

*Who has gained the victory;*

*Alleluia to the Spirit,*

*Fount of love and sanctity!*

*Alleluia, alleluia*

*To the triune Majesty!*

### ***A Confession of our Sins***

*God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship service reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've fallen short of God's demands, and focuses us on our need for a Savior.*

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins and our deep need for forgiveness.*

## ***Our Lord's Absolution***

*For the sake of the Son, the Father has forgiven all our sins! It's the pastor's joy to proclaim and assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins and from all of your guilt.*

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen!**

## ***Our Prayer in the Joy of Forgiveness***

*This confident petition, known as the Prayer of the Day, rejoices in our good and gracious King and in all that he has so wondrously done as it pulls our hearts and minds to his throne of grace and asks for his blessing.*

Lord Jesus, King of Glory, you have ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth and grace that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world. Hear us, ascended Lord; you do live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen!**

*After this prayer, the children are invited forward for a devotion geared toward their hearts (any 'non-kids' are welcome to listen in & pay attention to the lesson, too!).*

 **A Reading & Devotion from Luke 24:44-53** (this translation is the NIV84)

*“Everything. God does not keep his promises ‘more or less.’ He fulfills his word down to the last detail” (Wendland, 212). Luke’s account of Jesus’ ascension underscores that God fulfills all he’s promised. Everything.*

<sup>44</sup> 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 Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and 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. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Point to Ponder:

The risen Lord identifies himself as the center of God’s every promise.

How is that truth evident in these verses?

**Sung Response : A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing** (red hymnal, 171, vv. 1-3)

*So confident. So deserving. So in-control. So, of course, a hymn of glory ascribed to our ascended King is fitting! This hymn adores to praise the Lord (“alleluia!”) who lives, reigns, and rules all things on our behalf. Grace.*



**A hymn of glory let us sing!**

**New songs 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 followers they 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!*

### ***A Reading & Devotion from Acts 1:1-11*** (this translation is the NIV84)

*We will see him again and go where he is to be with him there. As intense as the scene of Jesus' ascension is, the words of the angel ring brilliant gospel into our hearts that, until we see him in heaven, we rejoice in our Jesus!*

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 showed himself to these men 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,

**Point to Ponder:**

*Convincing proof brought Jesus' disciples' comfort. Acts 1 conveys Jesus' comforting promises for our confidence. Promises like:*

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> So when they met together, they 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.”**

### ***Sung Response : A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*** (red hymnal, 171, vv. 4-6)

*These selected stanzas of this still-adoring song relate the angelic announcement and the vivid scene of the mountaintop. Ascended to reign eternally, he will return to bring us home to him. Promise!*



***“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!*

*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!*

***A Statement of Faith & Devotion from Ephesians 1:18-23*** (this translation is the NIV84)

*This statement of faith (“creed”) acknowledges that the reality that our Ascended Lord lives, reigns, and rules over all things for the benefit of his Church and to the glory of his holy name. To him all glory and praise!*

I pray also 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 the saints,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. **That power is like the working of his mighty strength<sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him 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 title that can be given, not only in**

**Point to Ponder:**

- Paul’s petition is gorgeous;**
- God’s answer is gracious!**
- Concerning it, how has God:**
  - ✓ answered it?
  - ✓ focused faith?
  - ✓ inspired work?

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.**

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***Sung Response: Crown Him with Many Crowns*** (red hymnal, 341, vv. 1, 3, 4)

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*This magnificent melody and powerful prose combine to give all glory and ascribe all worth to the King of Kings who has defeated sin and Satan, has defied death, lives eternally and reigns on high as our ascended Savior.*



***Crown him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark how the heavn'ly anthem drowns  
All music but his own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for three,  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.***

***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.*

## ***The Offering***

*Concerning the offering, the Lord says “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); if you’re blessed to support Peace with an offering – tangibly here or electronically at [peacelutheranboulder.org](http://peacelutheranboulder.org) – thank you! As we carry on our Lord’s work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!*

## ***A note to worshippers about the practice of “Member Communion” :***



**As we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s Supper, we respectfully ask that guests to Peace would please speak with Pastor Stern before coming to Communion. This practice is not an attempt to judge the heart of anyone, but it does stem from the Bible’s stress on the importance of a clear understanding of what this Supper is (I Cor. 11), as well as the importance of the clear, outward confession of unity it visibly displays (I Cor. 10, et al.). Please understand this is done in loving respect for our Lord and for all people; and, please do feel free to speak with Pastor if you have any questions about it.**

**In the meanwhile, thank you for understanding and respecting the importance of our Lord’s commands; be assured that, though we might not yet gather together at the Lord’s Table, *all of your sins are forgiven in the Gospel message!***

## ***The Sacrament and Lord’s Prayer***

*This portion of the Divine Service celebrates the grace and mercy of God that is ours in Jesus, ponders the peace that we have in him and that we receive in this Supper, and prepares hearts to receive him with thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good and right so to do.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

***Sung Response : The Sanctus (melody: I Lay My Sins on Jesus)***

*“Sanctus” is a Latin word for “holy.” This song, which blends the angels’ accolades in Isaiah 6 with the shout of the crowds in Matthew 21, proclaims that the Lord alone is holy and that he has come to set his people free.*



***O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might,  
Your glory earth and heaven in countless ways recite.  
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in your grace and mercy receive our fervent cry.***

***Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he  
Who in God’s name is coming to set his people free!  
He comes to bring salvation, and with his blood outpoured,  
Deliver us from bondage – Hosanna, mighty Lord!***

## *The Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Our hearts have been refreshed in his faithful love and forgiveness, and have been brought near his throne to worship and receive him. This prayer continues to ponder his acts for us and petition the Prayer he taught us.*

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

**By his incarnation, he became one with us.**

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

**By his innocent death, he overcame hell.**

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen!**

**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 Consecration, Distribution, and Reception of the Lord's Supper***

*The pastor speaks the Words of Institution, not as a magical formula, but “as a **prayer** that the Lord may do what he’s promised . . . as a **confession** that the body and blood of Christ are present in the Sacrament, and as an **invitation** to the communicants to make Jesus’ promise their own through faith” (God So Loved the World, 505).*

In Holy Communion God gives us a unique opportunity to publicly confess our unity of faith. He also gives us a tangible reassurance that it was his body and blood – not ours – which paid the ransom price for the world’s sins and sealed our salvation. With joy in our hearts and with hearts prepared to receive him, we hear and remember the words our Savior spoke:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, **“Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **“Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen!**

## ***Sung Response : The Agnus Dei***

*“Agnus Dei” is a Latin phrase that means “Lamb of God.” This sung petition proclaims with John the Baptist that Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed once for all, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).*



***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.***



***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us your peace. Amen!***

*No hymn will be sung during the distribution of the Lord's Supper. Instead, worshippers may find it wise to self-examine their own hearts using the Personal Preparation for Holy Communion outline found on page 156 in the front part of the red hymnals and/or the Spirit Inspired of Psalm 111.*

*Communicant hearts which prefer to abstain from regular wine can please note that the center 8 cups of the individual tray contain a wine that is alcohol-free.*

### ***Song of Thanksgiving : Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (red hymnal, 169)***

*"Nunc Dimittis" is a Latin phrase that means "now depart." In brief, this song utters with Simeon the rich blessing we too have to behold our Lord in this special way and to depart under the blessing of his peace.*



***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! 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.*

### ***Concluding Prayer and Benediction***

*Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, and his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, and to give us peace (Numbers 6).*

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened your love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen!**

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor (†) and give you peace.



*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 ever-more?"*