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# Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

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## The Ascension of Our Lord

God's Gift Service T May 24, 2020

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### God Gathers Us in His Name

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

### Opening Song:

“Awakening”

by Chris Tomlin & Reuben Morgan

### God's Gift of Forgiveness

*As God gathers us in worship today the only thing we are able to give Him is our sins,  
and out of undeserved love for us God gives us forgiveness.*

*King David wrote in the Psalms: “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’*

*— and You, [O God,] forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

*Psalm 32:5b NIV*

P Do you confess to Almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner who has sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed and therefore justly deserve His present and eternal punishment? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has lived a holy life, satisfying all the demands of God's holy Law for you, and died, shedding His blood for you upon the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you ask God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of His beloved Son Jesus, to be gracious and merciful to you? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P I have great Good News! Through His holy life and innocent death on the cross, Jesus has satisfied the holy demands of God's Law and has earned forgiveness and eternal life for us. He desires that this gift be delivered to all people. For He told His disciples on Easter evening, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. ... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

*John 20:21,23 NIV*

P Therefore, in the stead and by this command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and as the called and ordained servant of the Word in this place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P You are forgiven! You are set free! You are dearly loved children of God! Together you and I can now raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God for His tremendous grace. We can bring Him our fears and hopes, our needs and prayers, with all boldness and confidence as dear children do to their dear Father.

C Amen.

## Our Praise in Response to God's Forgiveness:

"Drawn to the Cross Which Thou Hast Blessed"

Public Domain: *LSB # 560*

### God's Gift of His Word

*By ourselves we are spiritually dead.*

*By our own efforts we are unable to create or sustain a relationship with God.*

*However, out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive.*

*He creates and sustains a relationship with us by way of His Word, the Word of Jesus:*

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,  
through the living and enduring word of God."*

— 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

#### First Reading:

Acts 1:1-11

ESV

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]*

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. To them He presented Himself alive 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### Epistle Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23

ESV

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul writes:]*

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that 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, having 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far 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. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading:

Luke 24:44-53

ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

*[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]*

*[On the evening of the day He rose from the dead, after having met with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared to His disciples inside the locked room where they were hiding. Demonstrating to them that He had flesh and blood and having eaten a piece of broiled fish in their presence, He began to instruct them, saying in part:]* “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.”

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And 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.”

Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## Song of the Day:

“Glorious Day”  
*(Living He Loved Me)*

*by Casting Crowns*

## Sermon:

“Salvation in 3 Acts”

*Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53*

## Apostles’ Creed

P We confess our Christian faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Our Prayers in Response to God’s Word

The following people or matters are being lifted up before the Lord:

- The CoViD-19 pandemic, including its removal, the safety and health of those not yet infected with the coronavirus, especially frontline health workers like Linda Light’s niece, a nurse at St. Luke’s in Cedar Rapids; the healing of those who have CoViD-19 – including Jose, as well as a worker at the Genesis Care Center where Dale Curtice’s mother resides, and also Maxine Maly, a long time member of Mt. Olive who resides at Ramsey Village near Drake (the Maly family asks that contact with Ron Maly be limited at this time); and granting comfort, peace, and the certain hope and joy of the resurrection to come when Jesus returns for those who have lost loved ones to this disease.

- Donna Foltman's neighbor Elaine, whose son-in-law Jamie and grandson Nick have tested positive for CoViD-19, whose daughter Julie's health is compromised (as is Elaine's).
- The provision of help and aid to all whose lives have been upended by the restrictions imposed in the pandemic, including the provision of employment to those who have been laid off or furloughed during this time.
- Wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit to all who are in leadership positions within the medical community, within the government, within business and industry, and well as within the Church as decisions need to be made about which pandemic restrictions must be kept in place and which may be relaxed or eliminated.
- The rapid development of a vaccine that is effective against the CoViD-19 virus.
- Healing for all those with illnesses and injuries other than CoViD-19: Alex Brown (ear surgery); Ian Thompson; Dale Foltman (Donna's husband); Joan Koch's brother, Bill, suffering with cancer; John Light's girlfriend who has entered a nursing home with numerous health issues; Dale Curtice; David West; Joan Erickson; Debbie Holseid; Gretchen Versteeg; Michael Sturgeon; Doug Burke; Pat Davison; & Kathryn Sprecher.
- The Lord's blessings upon those partaking of His Body and Blood during our drive through Communion on Sunday, May 24, at 9:00 am.
- Members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community: Elicah Makokha and son Alan Bowman; Rochelle Carrington and her children, Landon Carlson and Larissa, Elizabeth, & Kayla Carrington; Alicia & Michael Chilton and their daughter Grace; Brandi & Derick Davison and their children Alice & Gage; Patricia & Brian Fleener and their daughter Abby.
- Our MtO teachers and students as they close down the current academic year this week and leave for summer vacation.
- For Jesus' work throughout the world, that we may share the Gospel with our families, friends and neighbors.

*The prayers, silent or spoken, will be prayed now. Each prayer will end with:*

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your loving hands, dear Lord, we place everyone and everything for which we've prayed.  
We trust You to answer our prayers according to Your mercy in the way that is best for us.  
We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## Our Offerings in Response to God's Word

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,  
so that you through His poverty might become rich. ...  
Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

– 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15 NIV

*You are encouraged to continue regularly giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord either online at [www.molcs.org/church](http://www.molcs.org/church) or by mailing them to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines IA 50310 or bringing them to one of our drive through Communion services.  
We thank God for your ongoing generosity in supporting the Lord's work during this challenging time.*

## Lord's Prayer

- P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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.

## Collect Prayer of the Day

- P We join in the Collect Prayer of the Day:
- C 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, even as we continue now to proclaim His praises so that through us He may call our families, friends and neighbors out of darkness into His eternal light and life; this we pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Final Prayer

- P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, grant  
that our lips which have here sung Your praise may now glorify You in the world;  
that our ears which have heard the voice of our Shepherd through Your Word  
may now be closed to the clamorous voice of Satan and the world;  
that our eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope;  
that our tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth; and  
that we may be fully restored to newness of life  
through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## Blessing

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give T you His peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*
- C Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels" *LSB # 491*

## Announcements and Postlude

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