

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Sixth Sunday of Easter-Ascension

May 22, 2022

Although we live in the glow of Jesus' Easter victory during these Sundays of Easter, we anticipate Jesus' ascension. Although Jesus has removed His visible presence from us, He is still with us as we carry out His Great Commission. In fact, as we go forward baptizing and teaching all nations, Jesus has promised us in His own, almighty and omni-present way: "And surely I am with you always until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:15).

Moreover, as we will hear on Pentecost, Jesus promised to send His disciples the "Counselor," the Holy Spirit, to be with them and gift them in special ways as they carried out His ministry. So, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be with us today, as the Spirit works through the word and sacraments that we administer according to Jesus' will.

Jesus' promises of His presence bring us comfort and confidence, since Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter Sunday...when He removed His visible presence from us. This year Ascension Day falls on May 26. Jesus' ascension to God's right hand means that He no longer has to "humble" Himself. He completed that role as part of His saving work. In His state of exaltation, Jesus now rules without setting aside the use of His divine glory, knowledge or power.

What an encouragement to Jesus' Church as He sends us with the word, through which the Holy Spirit works, to convict sinners and bring them into the family of believers through faith. Because of that faith-family relationship, we can all look forward to one day receiving our heavenly mansion as prepared by our ascended Savior (John 14:1-3).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service, *Rite Two*.

Hymns: 389 (1-6), 392, 388, 389 (7)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11. Luke opens Acts stressing Jesus' physical rising from death, His promise to send a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to carry out His Great Commission and then our Lord's ascension into heaven.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 47. The psalmist urges us to offer shouts of praise to our ascended, exalted LORD, who rules all things with divine authority and power in the best interest of His church (*Supplement*).

Second Lesson: Revelation 19:11-16. John continues to give us glimpses of heaven, as the Lord allowed him to see and share.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. "God has ascended with a joyful shout." Alleluia. (Psalm 47:6, EHV)

-1-

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53. Luke records Jesus' appearance to His disciples, our Savior's reminder of a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit—which would

occur on Pentecost—and then closes his gospel with Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53

Theme - "Continue Worshiping Our Ascended King"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First lesson: As Luke opens Acts, what's characteristic of his style of writing?
- First lesson: What proves disappointing about the disciples asking, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- First lesson: What did the angels remind the disciples to do, and what promise did they assure as this section closes?
- Epistle: Describe all the characteristics of this rider on the white horse.
- Epistle: Combined with other descriptors throughout the Bible, who is this rider on the white horse?
- Epistle: What does the rider use to strike down the nations, and what is that weapon?
- Gospel: The "Law, Prophets and Psalms" comprise what part of the Bible?
- Gospel: In some respects, how is this appearance and message from our risen Savior similar to how Luke opens Acts 1?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school at 8:00 a.m.

+ Please bring your children to our Savior's word...to Sunday school at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation class: 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church on Monday.

+ **Acts 1:1-11** – I wrote my first book, *Theophilus*, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which 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 were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

-2-

They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up

from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (EHV™)

Revelation 19:11-16 – I saw heaven standing open, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war in righteousness. His eyes are like blazing flames, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him, which no one knows except he himself. He is also clothed in a garment that had been dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies in heaven, which were clothed with white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will shepherd them with an iron staff. He himself is going to trample the winepress of the fierce anger of the Almighty God. On his garment and on his thigh this name is written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (EHV™)

Luke 24:44-53 – He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to 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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen. (EHV™)

*Our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine are in need of our support. First and foremost, they need our prayers to God for peace, protection and security. There is also a very great need for humanitarian assistance as the war continues to destroy lives and property. The ELS Board for Christian Service has established the Ukraine Crisis fund to aid our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and the Gift of Life program as well as other Ukrainians in need. To contribute to this fund, go to els.org/donate. Please use one of the “Other” options and enter “Ukraine Crisis Fund.” Or, checks may be sent to ELS Ukraine Crisis Fund, 6 Browns Ct., Mankato, MN 56001. Jesus bless us all with His saving grace!