

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR

BLESSED LORD! We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will

strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Bethany Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

PASTORAL CARE AND GUESTS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER: Scripture and our Confessions teach that the Lord's Supper "is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine" (Small Catechism). We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. *If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service.* Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are active members of sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

MAY 29, 2025 † 6:00 P. M.

and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Lawson

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: O Jesus Christ, almighty Son of God, You are no longer in humiliation here on earth, but are seated at the right hand of the Father, Lord over all things: We beseech You, send us Your Holy Spirit; give Your Church pious pastors, preserve Your Word, control and restrain the devil and all who would oppress us; mightily uphold Your kingdom, until all Your enemies have been put under Your feet, that we may hold the victory over sin, death, and the devil; through You, who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

The Divine Service: Rite Two
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 60

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn of Invocation: *TLH 218, See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph*

**C: See, the Conqueror mounts in triumph; See the King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, To His heavenly palace gate!
Hark, the choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heavenly King.**

**Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies, – He hath gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He hath vanquished sin and Satan; He by death hath spoiled His foes.**

**While He lifts His hands in blessing, He is parted from His friends;
While their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased Him, Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated To His everlasting home.**

**Now our heavenly Aaron enters With His blood within the veil;
Joshua now is come to Canaan, And the kings before Him quail.
Now He plants the tribes of Israel In their promised resting-place;
Now our great Elijah offers Double portion of His grace.**

**Thou hast raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heavenly places, There with Thee in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
Mighty Lord, in Thine ascension We by faith behold our own.**

**Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son,
Dying, ris'n, ascending for us, Who the heavenly realm hath won.
Glory to the Holy Spirit! To One God in Persons Three
Glory both in earth and heaven, Glory, endless glory, be.**

Introit

Tone 1



Antiphon (Pastor) Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up `into heaven?:/ Al`leluia!
This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go `into heaven:/ Alleluia! `Alleluia!

Psalm (All) Oh, clap your hands, `all you peoples!:/ Shout to God with the `voice of triumph!

For the Lord Most `High is awesome:/ He is a great King ov`er all the earth.

God has gone `up with a shout:/ The Lord with the sound `of a trumpet.

God reigns ov`er the nations:/ God sits on `His holy throne.

Gloria Patri (All) Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ and to `the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

Antiphon (All) Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up `into heaven?:/ Al`leluia!

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go `into heaven:/ Alleluia! `Alleluia!

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: **And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King,

God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

**You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.**

**For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

The Collect for the Day

P: Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that just as we believe Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into the heavens, so may we also in heart and mind to heaven ascend and continually dwell with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Epistle: *Acts 1:1-11*

P: The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom

to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse (Pastor)

Alleluia! Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. You have ascended on high: You have led captivity captive. Alleluia!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sequence Hymn: 389, *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*, sts. 1, 5-7

C: A Hymn of glory let us sing:

New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascendeth to the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, grant us thitherward to tend

And with unwearied hearts ascend Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou,

As is our faith, art seated now.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense

Who art our future Recompense: Alleluia! Alleluia!

So shall the light that springs from Thee

Be ours through all eternity.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PLEASE STAND

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 16:14-20*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Mark, the 16th chapter:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus appeared to the eleven as they sat at table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

P: This is the † Holy Gospel.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Extinguishing of the Paschal Candle

*The Paschal Candle signifies the light of our Risen Lord’s presence and has been burning in His Church since Easter Day. Extinguishing this Candle reminds us that in the Ascension the visible presence of our Lord is withdrawn from the earth until He comes in glory on the Last Day. Ever since the Ascension, Christ is truly present **invisibly** in His Holy Word and Sacraments.*

*At the words "And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
And was made man" all **may** bow out of reverence for Christ's Incarnation.*

Nicene Creed: p. 69

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

**Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of Very God,**

**Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By Whom all things were made;**

**Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven**

*and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;*

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried;

**and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

**And He shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead;**

Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,

**Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,**

Who spoke by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

**And I look for the Resurrection of the dead
and the Life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Chief Hymn: 392, *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

**C: On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of mine ascension;
This hope alone has ever stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there full well I know His members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.**

**Since He returned to claim His throne Great gifts for men obtaining,
My heart shall rest in Him alone, No other rest remaining;
For where My Treasure went before, There all my tho'ts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.**

**Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Thine ascension
That I may ever walk with Thee, Adorning Thy redemption;
And then, when all my days shall cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.**

Sermon: Christ is in our midst. He is and ever shall be.

Offertory: pp. 70-71

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

The Intercessions

Hymn of Preparation: 581, *Draw Us to Thee* (tune: TLH 215)

**C: Draw us to Thee in mind and heart, On heav'nly things attending;
In spirit hence let us depart, To Thee, O Lord, ascending.**

**Draw us to Thee, O Christ, and guide Our erring feet to heaven;
If Thou, O Lord, with us abide, Light to our path is given.**

**Draw us to Thee, O Thou whose love The angels praise adoring;
Receive our souls to Thee above, Thy name in death imploring.**

**Draw us to Thee, grant us to rise To yon abodes of glory;
On Thee to rest our joyful eyes, And fall in praise before Thee.**

The Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Preface: p. 72

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

The Proper Preface & Sanctus: pp. 73-76

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine nature. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
 who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: pp. 77-78

P: Our Father who art in heaven,
 Hallowed by 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution: pp. 78-79

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.*

The Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord): p. 79

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei: pp. 79-80

**C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

The Distribution of the Holy Communion

*Prayers for "**Before Holy Communion**" and
for "**After Holy Communion**" are found on page 40 in ELH.*

The Nunc Dimittis: pp. 81-82

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the
face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people
Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

The Collect of Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: Almighty God, who gives the true Bread which comes down from heaven, even Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech You, that we who received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood may abide in Him, and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 84

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

The Benedicamus: p. 84

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: p. 84

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: 391, *Lo, God to Heaven Ascendeth*

C: **Lo, God to heaven ascendeth! Great joy doth there abound;
With shouts triumphant blendeth The trumpet's thrilling sound.
Sing praise to Christ the Lord; Sing praise with exultation,
King of each heathen nation, The God of hosts adored!**

**With joy is heaven resounding Christ's glad return to see;
Behold the saints surrounding The Lord who set them free.
Bright myriads, thronging, come; The cherub band rejoices,
And loud seraphic voices All welcome Jesus home.**

**No more the way is hidden, Since Christ, our Head, arose:
No more to man forbidden, The road to heav'n that goes;
Our Lord is gone before, Yet here He will not leave us,
But soon in heav'n receive us: He opens wide the door.**

**Christ is our place preparing. To heav'n we, too, shall rise,
And, joys angelic sharing, Be where our treasure lies;
There may each heart be found, Where Jesus Christ has entered!
There let our hopes be centered, Our joy, and hope, and crown.**

**May we, His servants, thither In heart and mind ascend;
And let us sing together. We seek Thee, Christ, our Friend –
Thee, God's anointed Son – Our life, and way to heaven,
To whom all pow'r is given, Our joy, and hope, and crown.**

Happy Feast of the Ascension to all!