

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE CHICAGO REGION COMMITTED TO
MINISTERING TO SINNERS
WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 13, 2021

✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting 1



CHRIST HAS ASCENDED AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. But the Ascension does not mean that He has left His beloved bride for He promises to remain with His Church to lead, guide, comfort and sustain Her. One of the ways in which our Lord fulfills this promise is in the Sacrament of the Altar. It is Jesus, present with His body and blood, who invites you to be His guest at the Altar and to receive from Him His very body broken and His blood shed for the forgiveness of sin. Here He gives His Bride Her life. Here He gives His bride Her hope of salvation. Here He gives His Bride the righteousness and purity that She must have to dwell with Her Savior for eternity.

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, "appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues "to do and teach" (Acts 1:1), preaching "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47), even "to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon "the church, which is his body" (Eph. 1:22–23). In this Holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself "in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:20).

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 Your 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.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| P | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor |
| C | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation |
| ✠ | designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made |
| △ | designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza |

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

494 See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph



1 See, the Lord as - cends in tri - umph; Con - qu'ring King in
 2 Who is this that comes in glo - ry With the trump of
 3 While He lifts His hands in bless - ing, He is part - ed
 4 Now our heav'n - ly Aar - on en - ters With His blood with -
 5 He has raised our hu - man na - ture On the clouds to



roy - al state, Rid - ing on the clouds, His char - iot, To His
 ju - bi - lee? Lord of bat - tles, God of ar - mies, He has
 from His friends; While their ea - ger eyes be - hold Him, He up -
 in the veil; Josh - ua now is come to Ca - naan, And the
 God's right hand; There we sit in heav'n - ly plac - es, There with



heav'n - ly pal - ace gate. Hark! The choirs of an - gel voic - es
 gained the vic - to - ry. He who on the cross did suf - fer,
 on the clouds as - cends. He who walked with God and pleased Him,
 kings be - fore Him quail. Now He plants the tribes of Is - rael
 Him in glo - ry stand. Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels;



Joy - ful al - le - lu - ias sing, And the por - tals
 He who from the grave a - rose, He has van - quished
 Preach - ing truth and doom to come, He, our E - noch,
 In their prom - ised rest - ing place; Now our great E -
 Man with God is on the throne. By our might - y



high are lift - ed To re - ceive their heav'n - ly King.
 sin and Sa - tan; He by death has crushed His foes.
 is trans - lat - ed To His ev - er - last - ing home.
 li - jah of - fers Dou - ble por - tion of His grace.
 Lord's as - cen - sion We by faith be - hold our own.

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INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19-20

The sign of the cross (✠) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.



CONFESSION OF SINS

1 John 1:8-9

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

PSALM 110:1, 4-5; ANTIPHON: PSALM 47:5

The 110th psalm is a prophecy of Christ, that He shall be an eternal king and priest, indeed true God, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and that He would be glorified and recognized. In the entire Scripture there is nothing like this psalm. It would be right to acknowledge it as the chief confirmation of the Christian faith. For nowhere else is Christ prophesied with such clear, plain words as a priest and an eternal priest. It is prophesied as well that the priesthood of Aaron would be abolished. This psalm is yet again and more splendidly extolled in the Epistle to the Hebrews. It is indeed a shame that such a psalm is not more richly extolled by Christians.

[Reading the Psalms with Luther, p. 268]



- A** God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
- C** The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My | right hand,*
until I make Your enemies Your | footstool.”

The LORD has sworn and will not | change His mind,*
“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”

The Lord is at your | right hand;*
He will shatter kings on the day | of His wrath.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

- A** God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

Kyrie ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **(Sung) Amen.**

Hymn of Praise ∞ **This Is the Feast (Sung)**

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C (Sung) **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

The First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In 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. ³To them he presented himself alive 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- A** Christ has arisen | from the dead.*
God the Father has crowned Him
with glory and | honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*
He has put all things un- | der His feet.



Epistle

Ephesians 1:15-23

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 a 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (Sung)

John 6:68

- C** Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

The Paschal Candle

At the conclusion of the Gospel reading the Paschal Candle, which has been lit since Easter, will be extinguished. The Paschal Candle symbolizes the visible presence of Christ with His disciples after His resurrection. With His ascension Jesus' visible presence is withdrawn, yet He continues to abide with His Church through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Sacraments. The Paschal Candle will again be lit at Easter next year and will also be lit during Funerals and at Baptisms, as a confession of Christ's Resurrection.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Twenty-Fourth Chapter.

C (sung) **Glory to You, O Lord.**



Then [Jesus] 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 and 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."

⁵⁰Then 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (Sung) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
 △ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the

in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
 With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,

on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

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Sermon

Stand



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.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

... one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering (YOU MAY PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE PLATES IN THE BACK OF THE NAVE AS YOU ARE LEAVING.)

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

- C** (Sung) **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

- P** The Lord be with you.
C (Sung) **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C (Sung) **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C (Sung) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary..... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

- C** (Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C (Sung) **Amen.**

Agnus Dei (Sung)

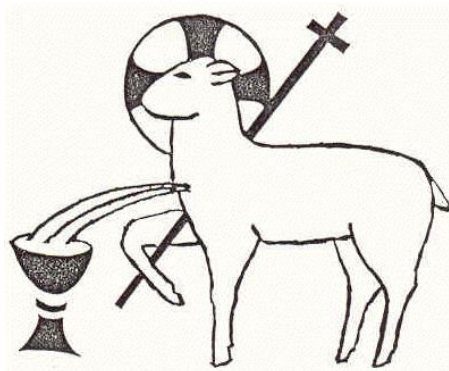
John 1:19

- ☞ 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 peace.

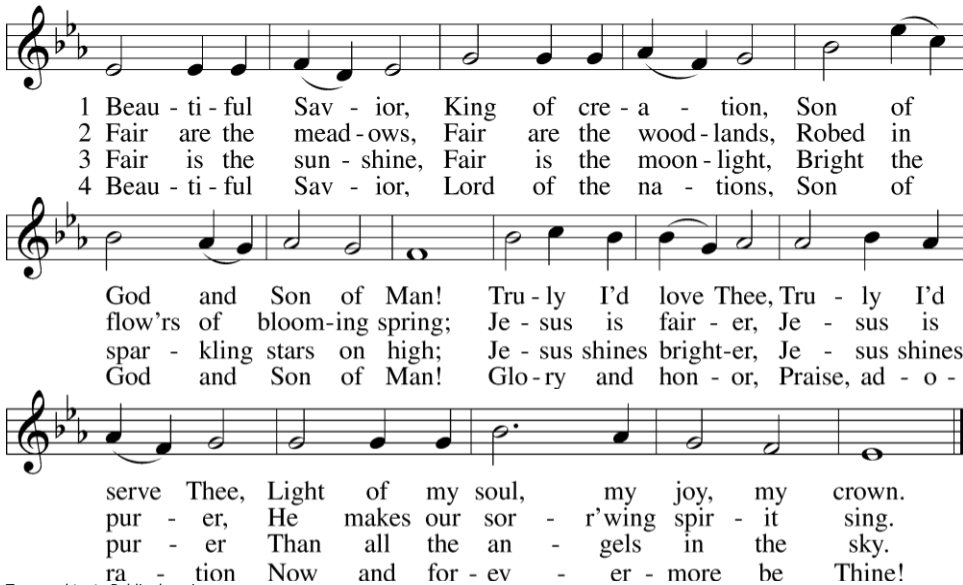
Dear Visitors and Friends: The right hand of God is not a confining physical spot! It is, rather, the almighty power of God which fills heaven and earth. THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD to God's right hand, therefore, means that He now fills and rules all things with His power and majesty, not only as God but also as man. For Him it is not too great a thing to be present with His very body and blood of the Lord's Supper as he promised. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this evening.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding!**

Distribution

Hymn are sung as needed



537 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

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492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -

cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for

ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let

know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

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Stand

DISMISSAL

- P** The eating and drinking of your Savior's Sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one, true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart in the joy of ✠ His peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Thank the Lord (Sung)

- C** **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

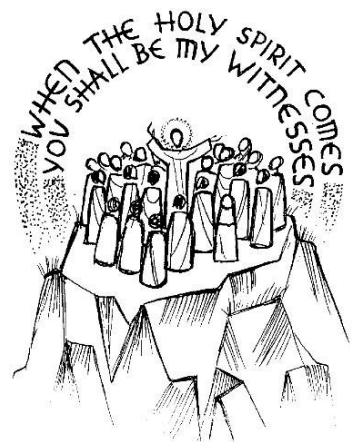
Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

- 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.
- C** (Sung) **Amen.**

Numbers 6:24-26



Closing Hymn

495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; See the Man of
 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown Him! Rich the tro - phies
 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned Him, Mock - ing thus the
 4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud tri -

Sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,
 Je - sus brings; On the seat of pow'r en - throne Him
 Sav - ior's claim; Saints and an - gels crowd a - round Him,
 um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;

Ev - 'ry knee to Him shall bow. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 While the vault of heav - en rings. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Own His ti - tle, praise His name. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown Him! Crown Him!

Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns be - come the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown the Sav - ior
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Spread a - broad the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and

vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.
 King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior King of kings.
 vic - tor's fame. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.
 Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

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Acknowledgments

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✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

The Lutheran Church retains ceremonies that underscore and support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).

Ascension Day commemorates the ascension of Christ into Heaven. Also known as the Feast of Ascension, it occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century. For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within their hearts, and of the ever-present Spirit of God, watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world.

