



# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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## THE HOLY RITE OF CONFIRMATION & THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

**WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATION!** We rejoice that you have joined with the members of Divine Shepherd this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation and to respond to His faithfulness with Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19).

### **A Prayer for Our Confirmand, Manny Martinez**

*Lift your hearts up to God with the following prayer. Please continue to pray for this child of God in the coming days, months and years. May God bless him always!*

**Almighty and Everlasting God, who makes us both to will and to do those things which are good and acceptable in your sight, we make humble supplications on behalf of Your servant, Manny. Let Your Fatherly hand ever be over him; let your Holy Spirit ever be with him; and so lead him in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that in the end he may obtain everlasting life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. Amen.**

### **Dear Visitors and Friends:**

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 morning.** 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. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**

## Invocation

*The congregation rises and turns toward the Narthex.  
The attention of the congregation is directed to the Processional Cross.  
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

## 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.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### Introit

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



**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 *œ 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.

**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.**

✠ Be Seated ✠

## 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, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>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."

**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.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which 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)

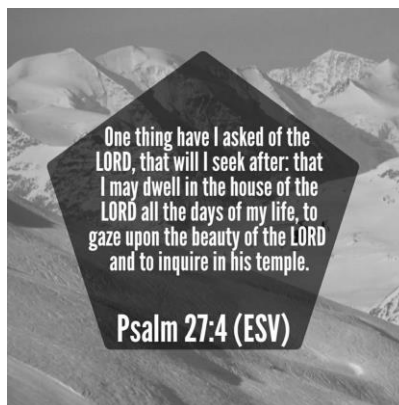
John 6:68

**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) **Glorify 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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ Be Seated ✠



## Hymn of the Day

### 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 ✧



# The Holy Rite of Confirmation

*These questions and answers for the Holy Rite of Confirmation are no child's play but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the Holy Christian Church. All of us who have already been confirmed have promised the same as Manny is doing today.*

*Let each of us pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."*



## The Hymn of Invocation

### Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly  
4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -  
7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for  
cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How  
moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He  
strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!  
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.  
where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.

8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,  
Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good;  
Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict’ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.

10 “What I on earth have done and taught  
Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav’nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you.”

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### ✠ Be Seated ✠

**P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”



You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord’s bidding. The fulfillment of His bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourself will now confess before the Church.

Jesus said: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies Me before men, I will deny him before My Father in heaven.

Lift up your heart therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as a minister of his Church, I now shall ask you.

**P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R** Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**R** Yes, I believe 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.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R** Yes, 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.

**P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, drawn from the Scriptures, as you learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

**R** I do, by the grace of God.

**P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R** I do, by the grace of God.

**P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R** I do, by the grace of God.

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and have been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen

*The catechumen kneels to receive the confirmation blessing.*

**P** **Manny Martinez**, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**R** Amen

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 27:4

**P** Peace ✠ be with you.

**C** Amen

✠ Stand ✠

## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

✠ Be Seated ✠

## Offering

✠ Stand ✠

## 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 ✠

**Dear Guests, Please read our Communion Practice  
on the bottom of page 2 of this service folder.**



## 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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)

**☐ 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.**

✠ Be Seated ✠

## Distribution

## Distribution Hymns

*Sung as needed*

## Beautiful Savior

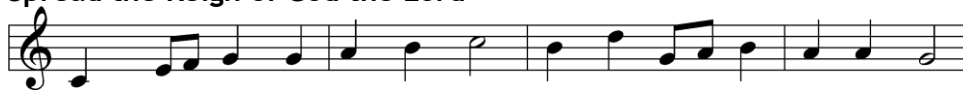
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

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!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Spread the Reign of God the Lord



- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
- 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
- 3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
- 4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.  
 How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
 And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
 Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;  
 Ripe the promise of its yield.  
 But the reapers, oh, how few  
 For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
 Rouse to action heart and mind;  
 Let the gath'ring nations all  
 See Your light and heed Your call.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



- 1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
- 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
- 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
- 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
- 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of  
 scepter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.  
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.  
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the  
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -  
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in  
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -  
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of  
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both  
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

Text and tune: Public domain

## ✠ 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

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- 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.**



## 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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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.



## WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Over the years, I have discovered that many Christians do not completely understand the purpose of attending the Divine Service. This handout will not only give you a better understanding of why Christians attend, but, perhaps more importantly, provide those who have fallen away from the church, an understanding that is a matter of life or death.

And so, “Why are you here”? Put another way, the question is, “Why do you go to church on Sunday?”

Many Christians respond to this question in many different ways, but many have answered with such statements as, “To worship God.”, “Because that’s what I do on Sunday morning.”, or “My parents make me.”

Let me start off by asking a question. Is God the object or the subject when it comes to the Divine Service? This is a very vital question. In the sentence, “I worship God,” “I” is the subject, “worship” is the verb and “God” is the object. If we speak of the Sunday service as “worship” then, we are the ones who are the givers, and God is the recipient of our gifts, namely, our worship, adoration, and praise.

The Church certainly does adore, praise, and thank God for all that He has done and will continue to do for His people. But our worship of God is always the secondary reason Christians attend the Divine Service. God is not the object but the subject every Sunday. The primary reason we attend the Divine Service is because God is the Subject and we are the objects or recipients of His gifts of Word and Sacrament that creates and sustains faith in Jesus Christ. That is why the church historically has called what we do on Sunday, the “Divine Service” and not a “Worship Service”. God is the active one and the Church is the recipient of His Divine actions.

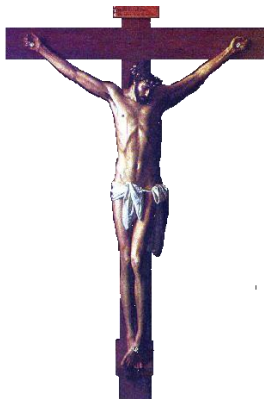
If you listen and read the Scriptures, you will notice that God associates His presence with His Name. With God’s presence comes His actions on behalf of His people. Where God is present, there you will find His actions, namely, Baptizing, Communing, Preaching and Absolving.

We must recognize that Jesus did not institute these gifts so that the Church could do something for Him! These indescribable gifts that He gives is so He could do something for Her, namely, giving Her all the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation which He has won for Her by His Holy life, death and resurrection. He continues to do this so that She may be ready and well prepared to receive Him when He comes to Her visibly, in all His eternal glory. On that great day of our Lord, the Bridegroom will receive His Bride into the everlasting Home He has prepared for Her.

~ Pastor Zimmer

## 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 (✠).