

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 18, 2023

Welcome to worship! The disciples must have been heartbroken to see Jesus taken up away from them into heaven less than two months after His resurrection. Our hearts are grieved when anything ends too soon, and we often hold onto a special memory or token of that person or thing that is gone. For Jesus’ disciples, they had the presence of the Holy Spirit to comfort them for the work that they were called to do. They were told no longer to look into heaven but to look on the earth and prepare it for Jesus’ return. This has been the church’s mission until today.

Large Print bulletins are available from an usher.

The Order of Vespers, Page 229

THE PRELUDE: “Look Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious” – Paul Manz

THE OPENING HYMN: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” **Hymn 493**

THE RESPONSES: Page 229

THE FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in

white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING: 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, 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.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:44-53

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.” 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.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMON RESPONSORY, Page 230

THE HYMN: "Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious"

Hymn 495

THE SERMON: "Gone too soon"

THE OFFERTORY HYMN: "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

Hymn 492

THE KYRIE, LORD'S PRAYER, and COLLECTS, Page 233

THE BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION, Page 234

THE CLOSING HYMN: "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph"

Hymn 494

THE POSTLUDE: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" -Paul Manz

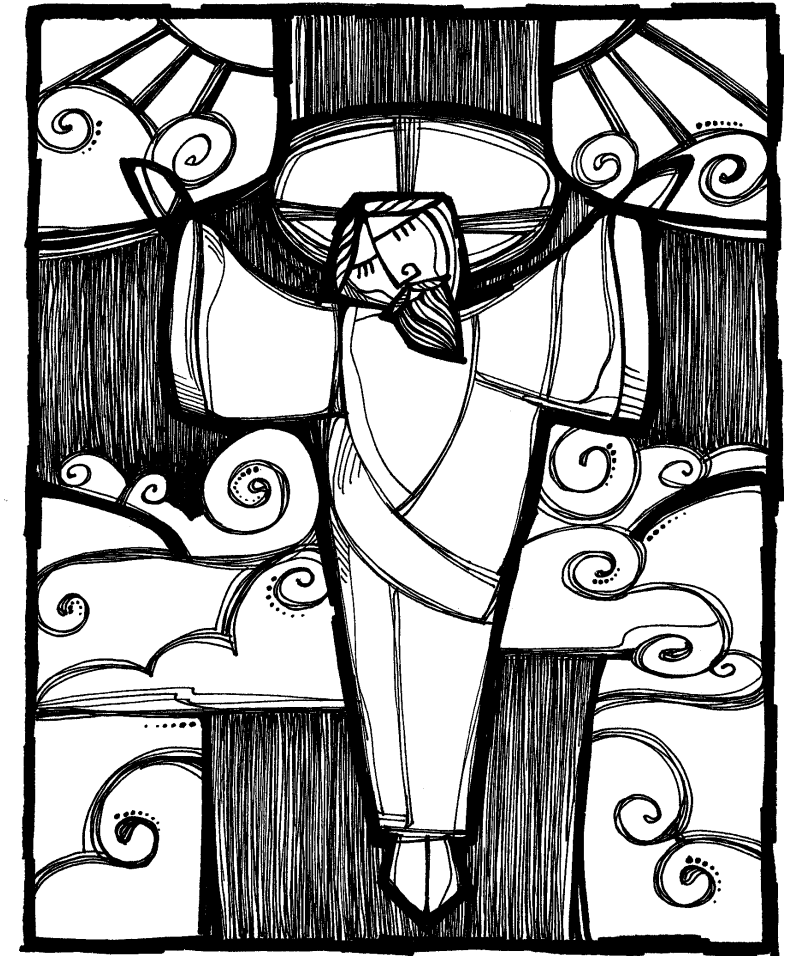
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Preacher: Vicar Case Farney **Lector:** Pastor Rodriguez

Liturgists: Pastor Blumenberg, Pastor Fredstrom, Pastor Bloch

Organist: Mr. Paul Scheiderer

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May 18, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Seymour, Indiana