

**The Ascension of our Lord**  
**Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church and School**  
**Thursday May 21, 2020**



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**Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church & School**

**Preservice Meditation:** *After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His Word by the signs that accompanied it. [Mark 16:19-20, NIV]*

Dear Jesus, my ascended Savior, thank You for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that You won for me. Calm my troubled heart and assure me of Your presence in my life. Remind me daily that You make all things work for my good. Keep me connected to You through Your Word, and bless me with chances to put my faith into action. Direct my worship tonight, so that I might give You glory. Amen.

**Hymn:** CW #171 – A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (stanzas 1,5,6)

**All:** A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia!

**All:** Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our future great reward. Alleluia! Alleluia! Then,  
throned with You forever, we  
Shall praise Your Name eternally. Alleluia!

**All:** O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to You let earth accord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia!



## **Call to Worship**

**Leader:** We worship our victorious and ascended Savior Jesus in the Name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

**People:** the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

**Leader:** Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**People:** For God is the King of all the earth; sing to Him a psalm of praise. [Psalm 47:5-7]

[**Leader:** In that day you will say: “I will praise You, O LORD. Although You were angry with me, Your anger has turned away and You have comforted me.

**People:** Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.” [Isaiah 12:1-2]

**Leader:** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say, “Give thanks to the LORD, call on His Name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His Name is exalted.

**People:** Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. [Isaiah 12:3-5]

**Leader:** Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.” [Isaiah 12:6]

**First Song of Isaiah** [Sung by children and congregation]

**REFRAIN:** Surely it is God who saves me. I will trust in Him and not be afraid; for the Lord is my Stronghold and my sure Defense; and He will be my Savior.

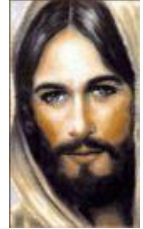
Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation;  
and on that day you shall say, “Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His Name.” **REFRAIN**

Make His deeds known among the people. See that they remember that His Name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord; for He has done great things, and this is known in all the world. **REFRAIN**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion! Ring out your joy! For the Great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **REFRAIN** [sung twice]

**Leader:** Let us make confession of our sins before God and be assured of His forgiveness through our victorious and ascended Savior Jesus.

**All: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should  
cast me away from Your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**



**Leader:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the Word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
[Be seated.]

### **God Speaks to Us Through His Word**

**Leader:** 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.

**People: After his suffering, on one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:**

**Leader:** "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."

**People: So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"**



**Leader:** 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."

**People: After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

**Leader:** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

**People: "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."**  
[Acts 1:1-8a, NIV]

### **Comfort from Jesus: John 14:1-6, 15-19, 27**

[Jesus said,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>[a]</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for

you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be <sup>[c]</sup> in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**Anthem by Children and Congregation:** “There Are Many Rooms” (Lawton; arr. Tate)

**REFRAIN:** There are many rooms in My Father’s house.

**Do not be afraid, and have no doubt; I am going there to prepare a place.**

**Come and follow Me, come and you will see,**

**Come and take your rest in God’s safe embrace.**



Verse: I am the Way, the Truth, the Life; those who believe in Me will never die but live again! **REFRAIN**

Verse: I will not leave you orphans; I will return to you, and you will live forever! **REFRAIN**

Verse: Peace I leave; My peace I give. Do not be troubled; do not be afraid. I calm your fear. I am near.

**REFRAIN**

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**The Ascension Message:**

**John 14:27**

**Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. <sup>1</sup>

“**Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**” Yeah, well when Jesus said this, he didn’t know about covid-19. Actually he did. He is all knowing. Okay well covid-19 is an exception. No it is not. What Jesus is saying is to never be afraid, never be troubled. Never would include covid-19.

Not to let our hearts be troubled and never to be afraid, seems like an impossibility now. I can’t help but think the disciples felt the same way. Jesus had told them, they would all fall away, one would betray him, he would be with them only a little while longer; where I am going you cannot come. Everything what Jesus was saying to them indicated they would have nothing but trouble, fear and unrest. The next day Jesus would die a gruesome death on a cross. They were all troubled, fearful and restless. But Jesus knowing all this still said, **do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**” This wasn’t the first time either, he already told his disciples just minutes either do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not be afraid. Jesus meant what he was saying. This can’t be.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: New International Version](#). (1984). (Jn 14:27). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

That is the way we are. What we see, hear and experience overrides what Jesus says. Our nature makes it impossible for us to understand Jesus' words. None of what Jesus says makes any sense to us. Nothing Jesus says can be true. Peace, do not be troubled, do not be afraid sound great on paper but unrealistic in the reality we find ourselves in today.

The reality is this: It's true, Jesus' has left us. There is no doubt about it. The disciples watched as a cloud hid Jesus from their sight. Anyone heard of Jesus sightings lately? You hear of Elvis and Loch Ness monster sightings but Jesus sightings? Jesus is gone. He ascended into heaven but this is no reason to fear or be afraid because before Jesus ascended into heaven he said this, **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."** Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he left us with peace; not as the world gives. What is Jesus' peace? It is a peace that transcends all understanding. Who in all the world can understand a God declaring the world to be not guilty of any and all sin because he took on flesh and died? It is peace that when the world is turned upside down, Jesus says, I have overcome the world. Nothing in this world can affect our place with our Savior in heaven. This is what Jesus' Ascension proves to us. Our place in heaven is prepared. What kind of a God leaves us with peace only because of his grace without requiring any action on our part? The world doesn't give peace this way. The world negotiates peace or forces peace with submission. Jesus didn't sit us down for peace talks saying, if there is going to be peace between us, here is what you are going to have to do. Nor did he force peace down our throats. Instead Jesus gives us peace by declaring it is yours. I love you so much I am giving you peace through my life and death. I am leaving you now so you can know your place is prepared. You have peace with me. It is all good. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Graduating class of 2020. I cannot imagine behind a camera is the way you wanted school to end or spend your graduation. Our world, your world, has been completely turned upside down. We are all told how much there is to be afraid of. I am sure you have heard mom, dad or others say how troubling all this is. I cannot promise you things are going to get better from here on out or you will be able to go to school without a mask or be able to give your friend a hug. Some of you I may never see again. Whatever happens you will see your Savior. In the same way you have seen him go into heaven, he will come back to take you to be with him. You may feel all alone right now but you are not. Jesus has left you something to get through all this: His peace. But this virus! Be at peace, your sins are forgiven. But I can't see my friends! You have my peace I am with you always. I am waiting for the perfect day when you and I will see one another face to face. But I am stuck at home! Calm down. Be at peace. You are not stuck at home. You may be stuck in this temporary dwelling for a time but your home is with me. Your home is all prepared. That is why I left today. To prepare your home. But I can't do anything! That's right you cannot do anything. I have done it all for you. I have your peace not because you do something but because I love you. If you really are looking for something to do, then be thankful even now for the peace I have given to you. Listen to mom and dad. Work hard. Read my word. Enjoy the blessings I have given to you. But most of all: **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.** Why? Your Savior has given you his peace. This is what I pray you take with you from you time at MC Lutheran School.

All of us could make a long list of why we should all be so troubled and afraid. Not one thing on our list would be valid. Why? Because today is Ascension. The day Jesus left us to assure us our place, our home is prepared. Before leaving, he did not leave us empty handed: He gave us peace. Not just any peace: His peace. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Amen.

**We Confess Our Faith in Our Ascended Savior Jesus**



**Leader:** The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [Romans 10:8-10, NIV]

**People:** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true. [*Luther Explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles’ Creed*]

### **Ascension Anthem: “Come, Sing Alleluia” [arr. Bailey, Mayo]**

Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice! Sing alleluia!

Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

(All creatures praise Him! Now sing alleluia.)



All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing.

O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven’s blissful shore, His goodness we’ll adore. Sing alleluia!

Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Sing amen!

### **Graduation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**

#### **The Prayers and Lord’s Prayer**

Leader: Risen and ascended Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for the privilege of sharing Your Gospel of forgiveness, life, and salvation with our families, our neighbors, and souls across the globe. We rejoice that You have seen fit to make us Your instruments for spreading the Good News to all creation. We know that we are dust. On our own we are incapable of doing the work You’ve given us to do. We treasure Your promises to be with us and to strengthen us for this work. Help us always remember that Your grace is sufficient for us and that Your power is made perfect in weakness. Help us to find comfort in knowing that when we are weak, we are strong. Keep us firmly connected to You through the Gospel so that we can bear much fruit. Remind us again and again that apart from You, we can do nothing. Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions. Keep our eyes focused on the heavenly home You have prepared for us. Help us stand firm. Let us always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, believing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. Lord and Savior, hear our prayer and help us serve You faithfully as we now pray the prayer which you have taught....

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Concluding Encouragement from the Scriptures:** For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. [2 Corinthians 1:20]



### **The Blessing of Our Ascended Lord**

Leader: May the God of all peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, (+) to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn “I am Jesus’ Little Lamb”**

CW 432

I am Jesus little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me every day the same, Even calls me by my name

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherds lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within his arms to rest.

+ + + *Surely Jesus is with you always, to the very end of the age.* [Matthew 28:20] + + +