

747 Christ High-Ascended

CW 747

- 1 Christ high-ascended, now in glory seated,
throned and exalted, victory completed,
death's dread dominion finally defeated,
we are his witnesses.
- 2 Christ, from the Father ev'ry pow'r possessing,
who on his chosen lifted hands in blessing,
sends forth his servants, still in faith confessing,
we are his witnesses.
- 3 Christ, who in dying won for us salvation,
lives now the firstborn of the new creation;
to win disciples out of ev'ry nation,
we are his witnesses.
- 4 Christ in his splendor, all dominion gaining,
Christ with his people evermore remaining,
Christ to all ages, gloriously reigning,
we are his witnesses.
- 5 As at his parting, joy shall banish grieving,
faith in his presence strengthen our believing;

filled with his Spirit, love and pow'r receiving,
we are his witnesses.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

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(Stand)

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 173

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count
against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

**We have followed what we have devised and
desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your
holy law.**

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have

mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Amen. *Refrain*

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which 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 were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10 They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

47 All Peoples, Clap Your Hands

Psalm 47

1 All peoples, clap your hands,
and shout with joy and sing.
The LORD Most High is to be feared;
he is the earth's great King.
He brings the nations down,
subdues them in our sight;
he chooses our inheritance;
his love is Jacob's might.

2 God has gone up on high,
with shout and trumpet voice;
sing praise to God, our glorious King,

sing praise to him, rejoice!
 For God is King of all.

Sing praise with all your skill;
 he sits upon his holy throne
 and rules the nations still.

3 Nobles from all the earth
 are joined with Abram's seed;
 the rulers of the world are God's;
 he's lifted high indeed!

So to the Father raise,
 with his ascended Son,
 and Holy Spirit endless praise,
 eternal Three in One.

Text: Christopher L. Webber

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Second Reading

Ephesians 4:7–16

But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ. ⁸That is why it says, “When he ascended on high, he took captivity captive and gave gifts to his people.” ⁹Now what does it mean when it says “he ascended,” other than that he also had descended to the lower parts, namely, the earth? ¹⁰He

who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. ¹¹He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, ¹²for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. ¹³This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ's activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation*Matthew 28:20*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.

Gospel*Luke 24:44–53*

He said to them, “These are my words, which I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up

into heaven. ⁵²So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

472 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 472

- 1 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, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia, alleluia!
and with his followers they see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 To them the shining angels cry,
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”

Alleluia, alleluia!

“This is the Savior,” thus they say.

“This is his glorious triumph day.”

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 “You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky.”

Alleluia, alleluia!

“Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty.”

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

5 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, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 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, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon

Acts 1:1-11

Ascension Blessings on Your Confirmation

I. You know your Savior (1-3)

II. You know your future (4-8)

III. Your Savior will return (9-11)

(Stand)

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from
true God,
begotten, not made,**

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary,**

and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate.**

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith

may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your

commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then

to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord,

in your

mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others

may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer. Amen.

Offering

THE SACRAMENT

(Stand)

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed,

took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it

and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is

my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.

(Be seated)

Distribution

(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace.

Amen.

Choir Sings:

707 Cling Tightly to the Word of God

CW 707

704 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow his example pure,
flee the world which would deceive us

and to sin our souls allure.

Ever in his footsteps treading,
body here, yet soul above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do the Father's bidding.

Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Savior, lead; I follow thee.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,
to his image e'er conform;
heaven's glory soon will please us,
sunshine follow on the storm.

Though we sow in tears of sorrow,
we shall reap in heav'nly joy,
and the fears that now annoy
shall be laughter on the morrow.

Christ, I suffer here with thee;
there, O share thy joy with me.

3 Let us also die with Jesus;
his death from the second death,
from our soul's destruction, frees us,
quicken us with life's glad breath.

Let us mortify, while living,
 flesh and blood and die to sin,
 and the grave that shuts us in
 shall but prove the gate to heaven.

Jesus, here I die to thee,
 there to live eternally.

4 Let us gladly live with Jesus;
 since he's risen from the dead,
 death and grave must soon release us.

Jesus, thou art now our head.

We are truly thine own members,
 where thou livest, there live we;
 take and own us constantly,
 faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.

Jesus, here I live to thee,
 also there eternally.

Text: tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.; Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

Blessing

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

476 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

CW 476

1 On Christ's ascension I now build
 the hope of my ascension.

This hope alone has always stilled

all doubt and apprehension,
for where the head is, there as well
I know his members are to dwell
when Christ shall come and call them.

2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
great gifts for me obtaining,
my heart will rest in him alone,
no other rest remaining,
for where my treasure went before,
there all my thoughts will ever soar
to still their deepest yearning.

3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
recalling your ascension,
that I may serve you faithfully,
in thanks for my redemption;
and then, when all my days will cease,
let me depart in joy and peace
in answer to my pleading.

Text: tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.; Josua Wegelin, 1604–1640

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MESSAGE BOARD

Names and Addresses: The celebration committee is looking for past

LES grads. It will be great if we are able to contact as many graduates as possible. If you know of names and addresses for these former students, please send them to Cori Einhardt. You may use her church mailbox.

LES Mission Project: This is week 13 of our current 2023-2024 mission project, **Missionary Kids Retreat**. To date we have collected \$232.31. We will support our WELS missionary kids with our prayers and offerings to help them attend these much-needed annual retreats. At these retreats, our high school and college-aged attendees will receive tools to cope with these transitions and will have opportunities to forge friendships with others who have had similar experiences. These non-budgeted retreats are only possible when funding is available.

Class Trip Bottle Collection: \$582.50 and counting! This is our final push to get our upper graders to the Straits of Mackinac, with enough 'can cash' left over for a meal or two! The trip is May 15th – 17th. You can drop your cans and bottles at the school's back door, bring them to the church, or contact Mr. Lange to pick them up, the class will then redeem them at the store. **Monetary donations will gladly be accepted!** If you'd like them picked up at your home, you can contact Mr. Lange at his home 989-823-8400 or at the school 989-823-7304. TIA

Sign-up Sheets: Watch for sign-up sheets for the Lange's Celebration Send-Off. Hot sides, fruit, salads, rolls, and desserts are needed. Meat, drinks, and paper products will be supplied. **June 9th** is the celebration date.

Celebration! Please join others planning the retirement party for John and Cyn Lange. Meeting will **follow Bible class on May 19th**.

Job Postings at the School

School Secretary – mornings 3-5 days a week – beginning at 8:00 AM

Full job description and applications are available at the school office. For more information, please speak to Mr. Lange, John Korthals, or Josh Denniston.

Christian Education Organization (CEO): The CEO will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 7PM in Room 1 at St. Luke's School. All members interested in helping with CEO activities are invited to attend the meeting.

Agenda items include: Election of Officers and Planning Year-End Activities

School Yard Signs Available –OUTREACH

OPPORTUNITY!!! There are several school yard signs available for you to display on your front lawn this spring, several are already placed on their standards. If you are interested in a low-key way to proudly boast of your school and its programs, grab a sign today!

Online Resources: For those who take advantage of our livestreamed services, you can follow along with the addition of the bulletin. The bulletin can be found at vassarlutherans.org, once there select the bulletin tab.

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Early Childhood Assistant Teacher, a full-time Accountant, a full-time Resource Development

Counselor, a full-time Administrative Assistant for Mission Advancement, a regular part-time Administrative Assistant for Academic Deans, a part-time Athletics Equipment Manager, a part-time Men's Basketball Assistant Coach, and a part-time Women's Basketball Assistant Coach.

Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

Please check the Meditations list in the fellowship hall. We are still waiting on a few to pay for their subscription.

Check your mailbox.

Happening Soon

Sunday 05/12	9:00 AM Communion Worship Service Confirmation
Monday 05/13	7:00 PM Communion Worship Service
Tuesday 05/14	6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM CEO Meeting– Room 1
Wednesday 05/15	7:30 AM Trip Mackinac begins for Upper Graders

Friday 05/17	9:00 PM Upper Graders Return from Mackinac
Saturday 05/18	12:00 PM Woolworth's Fellowship Hall
Sunday 05/19	9:00 AM Communion Worship Service
Monday 05/20	7:00 PM Communion Worship Service

May Servers

May Sunday Ushers: John Solgat, Mike Hecht, Nate Rupprecht, Grant Barnes

May Monday Usher: Jim Heidenberger

May Finance: Tom Barnett, Grant Barnes, Chris Lane

May Altar Guild: Christy Poulos, Jennifer Santoviz

Organist: Olivia Marker