The Ascension of Our Lord



Siebert Chapel Thursday, June 15 7:45 p.m.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Worship Focus

Forty days and forty nights, the rain poured down and the flood waters rose. God drowned the ancient world in a breath-taking act of liquid judgment. Forty days and forty nights, the Son of God presented himself to his disciples alive and exceedingly well after drowning sin in a flood of blood and swallowing up death in his resurrected body. Now the forty days were at an end. After promising his disciples a pouring-out of the Spirit and entrusting to them the keys to the Kingdom, Jesus—in one final, saving act of his earthly ministry—ascended into heaven. The clouds that hide Jesus from our sight cannot cast a shadow on our Ascension joy tonight: "God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets" (Psalm 47).

Tonight's Magnificat

Most scholars agree that Martin Luther created a setting of the Song of Mary (*Magnificat*) to be sung in the Vesper services of the Lutheran Church. The publication date is 1533, and the setting appeared in a hymnal published in Wittenberg. Luther modified a Gregorian chant known as the TONUS PEREGRINUS (the ninth or "wandering" tone) to accompany the text from Luke's Gospel. The setting with its harmony (likely also by Luther) is preserved in *Luther's Works*, American Edition, Vol. 53, pp. 178-179.

Festival Song of Simeon

With a unique plan created by the service designer, the conference planning committee commissioned Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche to prepare a setting of the Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*), long associated with Vespers, which combined the *Christian Worship* setting of the canticle with Martin Schalling's hymn text, "Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come" and its tune, HERZLICH LIEB HAB ICH DICH.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

In 2008 Jeffrey Blersch composed a setting of the Easter text, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" with its tune, LASST UNS ERFREUEN (Concordia, 97-7293). Desiring an expanded setting of the concertato for the six stanzas of the Ascension hymn, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (sung to the same tune), the conference planning committee commissioned Dr. Blersch to compose an additional stanza for treble choir which could be added to his 2008 setting.

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

The conference planning committee commissioned David Biedenbender to prepare harmonizations for Luther's hymn and its tune, NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Chorale preludes on ERSCHIENEN IST (see page 102)

Johann Walther Gottfried Homilius

Sämtliche Orgelwerke: Band II HoWV VIII.20

Edition Breitkopf 8679 Edition Breitkopf 8541

Johann Sebastian BachMax RegerOrgelbüchleinOp. 67, no. 8

Concordia, 1984 Bärenreiter Verlag BA.BA8249

Ernst Pepping

Schott ED3731

Grosses Orgelbuch III

Order of Service

The flame of the Paschal Candle is carried to the assembly.

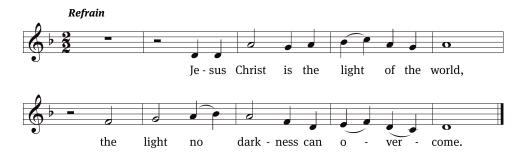
Stand at the sound of the bells.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Processional for Lucernarium

Carl Crozier, 1987 Ionian Arts, CH-1002

The choir sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.



The choir sings the verses of the processional.

You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright. For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

Refrain

When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

Refrain

You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and spread out the heavens like a curtain. Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Refrain

The night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the Lord be praised.

Refrain

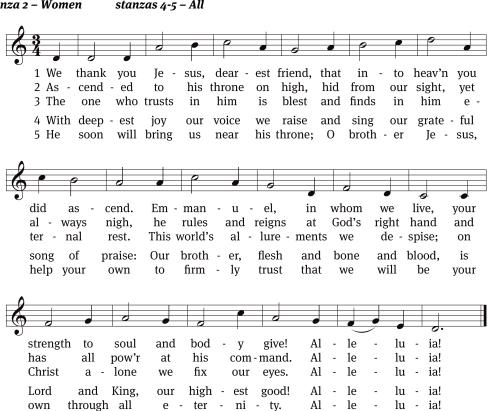
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

We Thank You, Jesus, Dearest Friend

Nikolaus Herman, 1560 ERSCHIENEN IST Intonation: Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) Setting: Michael Praetorius Musae Sionae V:140

stanza 1 – Choir stanza 3 – Men stanza 2 – Women stanzas 4-5 – All



- M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

Be seated.

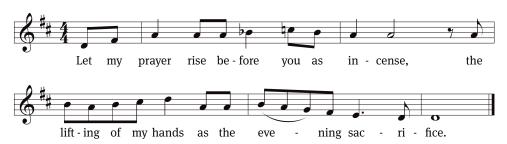
Extinguish candles. Place candles in receptacles when leaving the chapel.

Cantor:

An angel, holding a golden censer full of incense, stood before the altar. The smoke of the incense went up before God, mingled with the prayers of the people.

The choir sings the refrain. All sing the refrains that follow.

Refrain



The choir sings the verses of the psalm.

I call to you, O LORD; come to me quickly; Hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise before you as incense, The lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Refrain

Keep guard over my mouth, O Lord; watch the door of my lips; Keep my heart from slipping into evil. Let me not be busy with evildoers; Let me not be taken in by their sensuous foods.

Refrain

Should the righteous rebuke me, let me accept it as grace; But keep the oil of the unrighteous ever from touching my head. I continually pray against their wicked deeds; when they are judged, they will know the truth of your word.

Refrain

But my eyes are turned toward you, O LORD my God; In you I take refuge; do not deprive me of life. Keep me from the snare set for me by the evil. Let them be ensnared, but Lord grant me release.

Refrain

Silence for meditation.

- **M:** Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.

PSALM 47

Steven Rhode, 2016 The Wittenberg Psalter Chorale-Tone XVII after MACH HOCH DIE TÜR Commission on Worship Web site

The choir sings the refrain. All sing the refrains that follow.





The choir sings the verses of the psalm.

How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth! God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Refrain

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; Sing to him a psalm of praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Silence for meditation.

- **M:** Lord Jesus, your Father raised you on high, seated you at his right hand, and appointed you to be head over everything for the sake of the Church. Gather the elect from all nations into your Church and make them a holy people to praise and adore you, who lives and reigns with the Father and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing praise on earth, alleluia. Sing praise in heav'n, declare His pow'r. Sing praise for all His mighty acts.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!
Sing alleluia, praise His worth.
Sing His achievements, strength supreme.
Sing praise for His transcendancy.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!
Sing alleluia, praise with joy.
Sing praise with psaltery and harp.
Sing praise with trumpets blasting forth.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!
Sing praise with charming reed and flute.
Sing praise with dancing and with drums.
Sing praise with strings most delicate.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, cymbals clash. Sing alleluia, cymbals ring. Sing all that breathe, alleluia!

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! All ages glorify His name. Father and Son and Spirit, one; Now and forevermore. Amen

Silence for meditation

M: Lord God, unite our voices with the praise of all creation, that we may worthily magnify your excellent greatness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

READING

The Ascension of Our Lord

A harmony based of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles

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 presented himself to them 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.

Soon after the resurrection, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and 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 am with you always, to the very end of the age."

On one occasion, Jesus said to them, "This is what I told 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."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

On another 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. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and 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."

When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. And he sat at the right hand of God.

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."

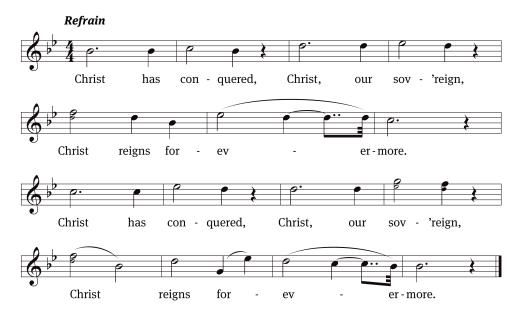
Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

ACCLAMATION

Christ Has Conquered (Christus Vincit)

Joseph Noyon Arranged by Gerre Hancock Oxford University Press, 1991 - OU.9780193858541

After an introduction, all sing the refrain.



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Refrain

As it was in the beginning, is now and forevermore, world without end. Amen.

Refrain

SERMON Psalm 110

Ascension Smashes Expectations

HYMN

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Martin Luther, 1524 NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN Settings by David Biedenbender, 2017



Be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Arranged by Sandra Eithun Concordia, 97-7677

Magnificat

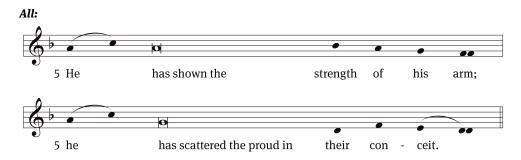
Cantor and Choir:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

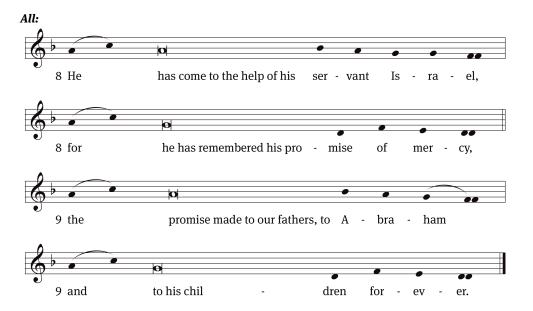
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.



Cantor and Choir:

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.



Stand.

Kyrie

- **M:** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** 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: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this place, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- **M:** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.
- **M:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 - Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- **M:** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:
- C: To you, O Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **M:** 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.
- C: Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

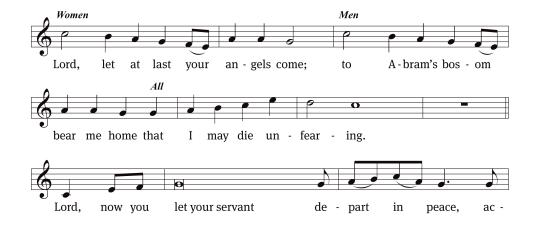
- **M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON

Festival Nunc Dimittis

Nunc Dimittis

Arranged by Kenneth T. Kosche





BLESSING

- **M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ♣ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: Amen.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

The Venerable Bede (673-735) LASST UNS ERFREUEN Setting by Jeffery Blersch, 2008 & 2016





Following the hymn, be seated for the postlude.

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Based on a text long associated with the Te Deum Laudamus, *Salvum Fac Populum Tuum* was composed for a 1918 armistice service at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. It is a sonic portrayal of the horrors of war and the triumph of victory. So, too, Christ's cosmic struggle against sin, death, and devil was horribly real. His triumph is total.

O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever.

X

At the Festival of the Ascension the Paschal Candle is carried from the chancel to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with his Church in bodily form but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory. The recession of the Paschal Candle does not imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for he promised, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). Wherever his Word and Sacraments are, there Jesus is truly present. The recession of the Paschal Candle helps us to remember that Jesus does not himself carry the gospel in Word and Sacraments to the world, but has appointed us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:20). With Jesus' power and presence, we are indeed witnesses of grace.

Service Participants

This service was designed by Aaron Christie.

Presiding Minister John Bortulin

St. John, Mukwonago, WI

Assisting Minister John Boggs

Hope, West Palm Beach, FL

Preacher David Scharf

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

Organist Jacob Behnken

Good Shepherd, Midland, MI

Choirs Conference Choir

Jon Hermanson, director

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, MN

Conference Children's Choir

Kurt Cereske, director

Shepherd of the Plains, Lubbock, TX

Handbell Choir

Craig Hirschmann, director

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

Ascension - 114

Instrumentalists

Trumpet

Nate Amundson, West Bend, WI Tom Bauer, Sturtevant, WI Jeff Dewey, Antigo WI Tim Moke, Chandler, AZ Kyle Riess, Bemidji, MN Adam Warnke, Appleton, WI

Horn

Jared Natsis, Saline, MI Kimberly Schmill, Tomah, WI Trombone

Carl Boeder, New Ulm, MN

James Hoogervorst, West Bend, WI

Dan Hubert, West Bend, WI Eric Joslin, Muskegon, MI Jon Siegler, Yorktown, VA Joe Titus, Savanna, IL

Percussion

Peter Buschkopf, Milwaukee, WI Brett Duwe, Johnson Creek, WI Zachary Scharlemann, Fairfax, MN

Acknowledgments

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We Thank You Jesus, Dearest Friend - MUSAE SIONIAE Teil V. Nr. 140. Available online at www. michael-praetorius.de

Psalm 47 – From *The Wittenberg Psalter* by Steven Rhode. Available online at worship.welsrc.net

A Harmony of the Ascension Accounts - Aaron Christie, Waukesha, WI. Available by request achristie@trinitywels.com

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Song of Mary – Canticle of Mary from Christian Worship: Occasional Services, p. 222.

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A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing – Stanza for Treble Choir to match the concertato "Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resound" (CPH 97-7293). Used by permission with this text.

NOTES