

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Ascension of Our Lord
9 May 2013



**God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

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A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

Please also record your visit in the visitors' book at the back. If you would like a phone call or a pastor-

al visit, speak to the pastor or leave a note in the visitors' book.

The Offering

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Holy Communion

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine, according to Jesus' own words. We also believe that those who participate in Holy Communion in a particular congregation should be in agreement in the confession of the faith.

Therefore, we ask that only those who are instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's spiritual care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting us and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor *before the service*. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Our teaching on this matter is explained in more detail in the little leaflet, 'Why Closed Communion?', which is available at the back of the church.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.

Explanation of Symbols:

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

Opening Anthem: God Is Gone Up

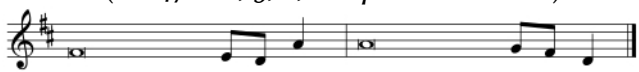
Text: Edward Taylor (1646–1729); Music: Gerald Finzi (1901–56)

God is gone up with a triumphant shout,
The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies:
Sing praise, sing praises out,
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing,
And let the King of Glory enter in!

Methinks I see heaven's sparkling courtiers fly
In flakes of glory down Him to attend,
And hear heart-cramping notes of melody
Surround His chariot as it did ascend,
Mixing their music, making every string
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

184 Confession and Absolution

Introit (*Ps. 47:1–2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11*)



L Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven?
Alle- | luia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you
into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him
go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

C Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

L For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.

C God has gone up | with a shout,*

the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

L God reigns over the | nations;*

God sits on his | holy throne.

C ♦ *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.

L Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven?
Alle- | luia.

C This Jesus, who was taken up from you
into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw
him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

186 Kyrie**187 Gloria in excelsis****189 Salutation and Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so grant that 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. Amen.

The Readings

Jesus Is Ascended, but Not Absent

On the fortieth day after His resurrection, our Lord ascended to the right hand of the Father. But although Jesus is hidden from your eyes, He is not absent from you. For He now fills all things in heaven and on earth. He continues “*to do and to teach*” (Acts 1:1), preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins through those sent in His name (Mark 16:14–20; Luke 24:44–53), giving you His true body and blood in the Supper. Jesus is your great Elijah who pours out on you a double portion of His Spirit in the Word and the Sacraments (2 Kings 2:5–15). He is Lord over all things for the sake of the Church. He whom heaven cannot contain has raised your human nature to share fully in the glory of God. You who believe and are baptised into Christ’s body are already sitting in the heavenly places; for you are in Him who is at the Father’s right hand. When He comes again in the clouds on the Last Day, you also will appear with Him in glory.

Old Testament Reading—2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰ And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³ And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back

and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Psalmody: Psalm 110

L ¹ The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,*

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

C ² **The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty sceptre.***

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

L ³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;*

from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

C ⁴ **The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,***

“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

L ⁵ The Lord is at your right hand;*

he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

C ⁶ **He will execute judgement among the nations, filling them with corpses;***

he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

L ⁷ He will drink from the brook by the way;* therefore he will lift up his head.

C **❖ *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.

L The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,*

until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Epistle Reading—Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptised with

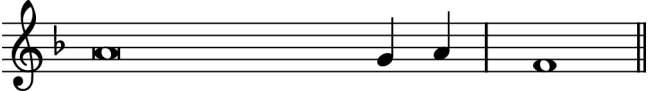
water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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

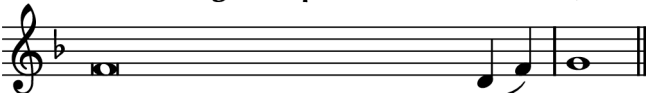
Alleluia Verse (*Ps. 47:5; 68:18a*)



Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.



God has gone up with a shout,*



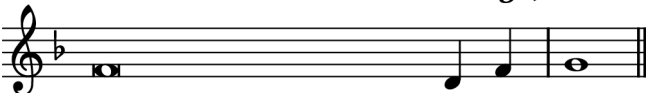
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.



Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.



You ascend - ed on high,*



leading a host of captives in your train.



Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.

Gospel Reading—Mark 16:14–20

L The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.



Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

¹⁴ Afterwards [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the

gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

191 *The Nicene Creed*

494 **Hymn: See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph**

Sermon

192 *The Offertory*

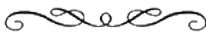
193 *Prayer of the Church*

194 *The Service of the Sacrament*

199 *Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion Prayers*

202 *Blessing*

493 *Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*



IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron, Forbes, Frank; Hanna (preparing for Confirmation)

Family of members

Lucy, Diana (old age); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (recovering from operation)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Paul (homeless); Mike (health); Claire and Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast cancer); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Dave (mental illness); Claire (leukaemia); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Lisa & family (cancer); Baby Thomas (health); Sally (health); Julia (distress); Bonnie & unborn child

ELCE

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church; Pr. Edge; LWLGB Conference; Norma Rakow (illness & old age)

The Church of God

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Lutheran Church–Hong Kong Synod; Hill Park Baptist Church

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE SMALL CATECHISM PART III: THE CREED

THE THIRD ARTICLE

Sanctification

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.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead and will give eternal life to me and to all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Sun	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission

Further ahead

15 May	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7.30pm	Voters' Assembly (Parsonage)
16 May	6.30pm	Michael Robert Concert at Café iMBiZO, 171 West St.
19 May	10.30am	Divine Service with Confirmation— <i>Pentecost</i> (Scout Hall)

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 36:22–28; 1 Peter 4:7–11; John 15:26–16:4