

A watercolor-style illustration of a sunrise or sunset. The sun is a bright yellow circle partially obscured by a thick, horizontal band of orange and red watercolor wash. Several thin, vertical lines of yellow and orange radiate upwards from the sun, creating a sense of light and energy. The background is a light, textured grey.

resurrection
REALity

*Christ's Ascension Means
He is Closer Than Ever*



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Ascension Observed

*Resurrection Reality--Christ's Ascension
Means He is Closer Than Ever*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Ascended Lord, bless us through your Word of grace and forgive us for our sins. We trust that your love will bring us home to heaven to sit with you in the glorious mansions you have prepared for us. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Conventional wisdom would say if Christ has ascended into heaven, he is further away than when he was visibly on earth. The resurrection reality is that it is the other way around. Now that Christ has ascended, he is closer than ever. The living and ascended Savior has reassumed full use of all his divine power. So when we need Christ's help, we call to him in prayer, wherever we are and whenever we need. When we want to hear Jesus speak? We open his Word and listen to his powerful, life-giving voice.

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but not the end of his work. Christ still exercises his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Guest Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter

Pianist: Paige Reiners

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

church@salemlutheran.org

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

CW 476



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build the hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, re - call - ing your as -



cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled all doubt and ap - pre -
tain - ing, my heart will rest in him a - lone, no oth - er rest re -
cen - sion, that I may serve you faith - ful - ly, in thanks for my re -



hen - sion, for where the head is, there as well I know his
main - ing, for where my trea - sure went be - fore, there all my
demp - tion; and then, when all my days will cease, let me de -



mem - bers are to dwell when Christ shall come and call them.
thoughts will ev - er soar to still their deep - est yearn - ing.
part in joy and peace in an - swer to my plead - ing.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

M: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

M: How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C: He has set his glory above the heavens.

M: For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C: He is exalted far above all gods.

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

C: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

M: The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

C: **He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

M: The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

C: **A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.**

M: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

C: **His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* CW 511 sts. 1, 4



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, en - throned in worlds a - bove;



hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
crown him the King to whom is giv'n the won - drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
Crown him with man - y crowns as thrones be - fore him fall;



and hail him as thy match-less King thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.
crown him, ye kings, with man - y crowns for he is King of all.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Before Jesus ascends, he promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit so that he could continue to carry out his saving work through the Church.

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

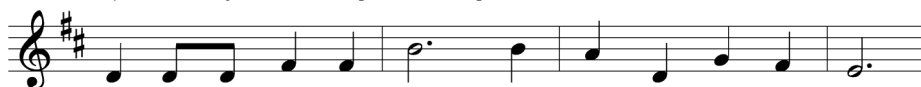
¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: All Peoples, Clap Your Hands

Psalm 47D



1 All peo - ples, clap your hands, and shout with joy and sing.
2 God has gone up on high, with shout and trum - pet voice;
3 No - bles from all the earth are joined with A - bram's seed;



The LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the earth's great King.
sing praise to God, our glo - rious King, sing praise to him, re - joice!
the rul - ers of the world are God's; he's lift - ed high in - deed!



He brings the na - tions down, sub - dues them in our sight;
For God is King of all. Sing praise with all your skill;
So to the Fa - ther raise, with his as - cend - ed Son,



he choos - es our in - her - it - ance; his love is Ja - cob's might.
he sits up - on his ho - ly throne and rules the na - tions still.
and Ho - ly Spir - it end - less praise, e - ter - nal Three in One.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:7-16

St. Paul explains the power and purpose of Christ's ascension. Jesus left this world for our good. He ascended so that he could give gifts to his people and build up his Church.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

The risen Savior ascended, and his disciples responded with joyful worship.

⁴⁴He 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."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I 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."

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 472 sts. 1-4



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -
"This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon

Based on Acts 1:1-11

"Seeing Clearly"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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.

Offering



 [Connect Card](#)

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 [Give Online](#)

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: 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, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored eternal 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,

God of might. Heav-en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

M: 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of a single melodic line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the sixth system.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Distribution Hymn: Christ High-Ascended

CW 747 sts. 1-4



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed, throned
2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing, who
3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, lives
4 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing, Christ



and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed, death's dread do -
on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, sends forth his
now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion; to win dis -
with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing, Christ to all



min - ion fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, we are his wit - ness - es.
ser - vants, still in faith con - fess - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
ci - ples out of ev - 'ry na - tion, we are his wit - ness - es.
a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly reign - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

CW 474 sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 Hail the day that sees him rise to his
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; lift your
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes, his a -
6 There we shall with him re - main, part - ners



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
heads, e - ter - nal gates! He has con - quered
ton - ing death he pleads. He, the first of
in his end - less reign, there his face un -



sin - ners giv'n, re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
death and sin; take the King of glo - ry in!
all our race, near him - self pre - pares a place.
cloud - ed see, live with him e - ter - nal - ly.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus in Sunday JAM, starting at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week—Pentecost Festival

Worship theme: Christ Has Not Left Us Alone

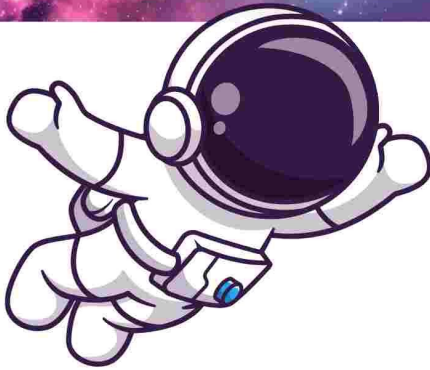
Bible Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-13, Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-11

Hymns: 479, 585, 592, 593

Worship Time Change

Our summer worship schedule will begin in just two weeks, Memorial Day weekend. Beginning May 26th we'll have one service on Sunday morning at 9am. Stay after worship for a half-hour Bible study and fellowship starting at 10:15 each week! The Saturday service remains at 5pm throughout the year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



June 10 - 14
9 am-12 pm

Pre-K to 6th Grade
\$10 per child

Come join us on our Miraculous Mission: Jesus saves the world. Our adventures will include learning a whirlwind of Bible stories, raising our voices to sing praises, eating out of this world snacks, playing a multitude of games, and crafting creations. Cost is \$10 per child.

REGISTER ONLINE AT

salemlutheran.org/vbs

or in person at Salem Lutheran Church
14940 62nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

For our guests

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together, and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, on the wall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome, too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

