

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY— Ascension Day is the day we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, forty days after Easter. Since that day always falls on a Thursday, today is the day we celebrate that in worship. Up until today, the stories we have been reading this year in worship have been about the time when Jesus was here on earth spending time with his disciples and other followers, teaching and preaching, healing, and doing other miracles.



We have been learning about being Jesus followers by listening to and watching him, by being there with him as he heals the sick, eats with the outcasts, and welcomes the ones the world would turn away. We placed ourselves in the story with the disciples as we walked through the horrible days of his betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion. We rejoiced and celebrated at the news of his resurrection.

And now for these past forty days we have tried to wrap our heads around the fact that Jesus really has been raised from the dead, while asking what his resurrection means for us and how we live lives of faith and discipleship.

And now, today, Jesus leaves his disciples and us to return to the Father in heaven. **But this doesn't mean the story of Jesus is over.** As Jesus ascends into heaven, he leaves us with the promise that he is sending his Holy Spirit to us and with a command to go out and be his witnesses.

As we think a little about what this promise and this command mean for us and our lives, here some questions to wonder about. (These are just to get you wondering... there are no right or wrong answers.)

- 1. We don't really know what to make of Ascension. Each week as we confess our faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed, we say Jesus "ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." But have we really thought much about what we are saying? What do you think that means?**
- 2. In Luke's telling of the ascension of Jesus, before Jesus ascends into heaven, he tells the disciples they will be his witnesses, telling people everywhere about him. Can you think of a time this past week when someone might have learned about Jesus from you? Was it something that you did or said intentionally? If not, how might you be more intentional about teaching others about Jesus? What would you like people to learn about Jesus from you?**
- 3. Jesus says we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Since we know Jesus' idea of power and what it is used for is not the same as the world's idea of power, what do you think Jesus is talking about?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM—FOR THOSE OF YOU WORSHIPING AT HOME, WE INVITE YOU TO SET ASIDE SMALL BOWL OF WATER TO SERVE AS YOUR BAPTISMAL FOUNT DURING THIS TIME. CHOOSE A BOWL THAT WILL “REMAIN” YOUR BOWL. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.**

L In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L The apostle Paul writes these words to the early followers of Jesus in Rome:

C “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

L Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

C For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:3-5)

L Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. (Gen. 1)

C Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. (Gen. 6-9)

L Through the Red Sea you led Moses and your people Israel from slavery in Egypt into freedom in the Promised Land. (Exodus - Joshua)

C At the Jordan River your Son was baptized by John the Baptist and anointed with the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3).

L Your Son commanded his church...

C “Go. Make disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them. And remember that I am with you until the very end.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

L By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

C We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

L Shower us with your Spirit,

C And renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

L To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy

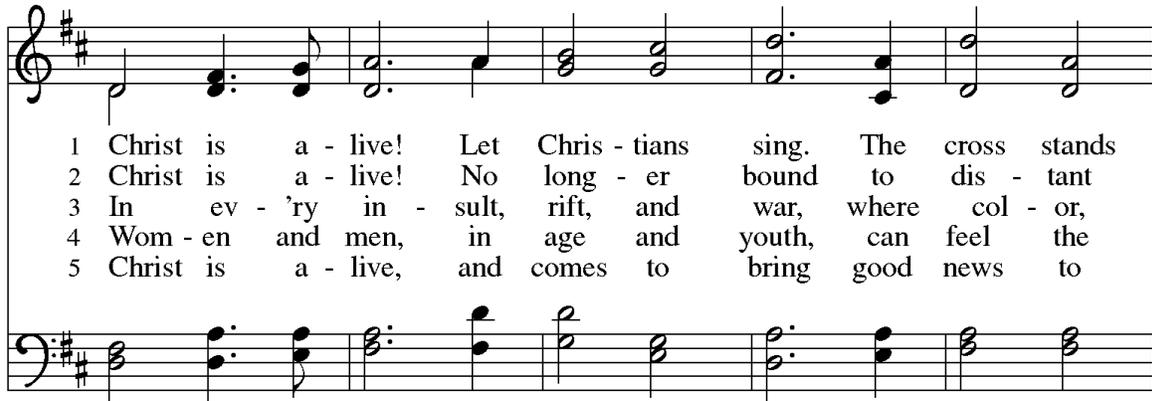
Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen!

L Almighty God gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. God forgives us all our sins (*water is sprinkled*); strengthens us in all goodness (*water is sprinkled a second time*), and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (*water is sprinkled a third time*).

C Amen.

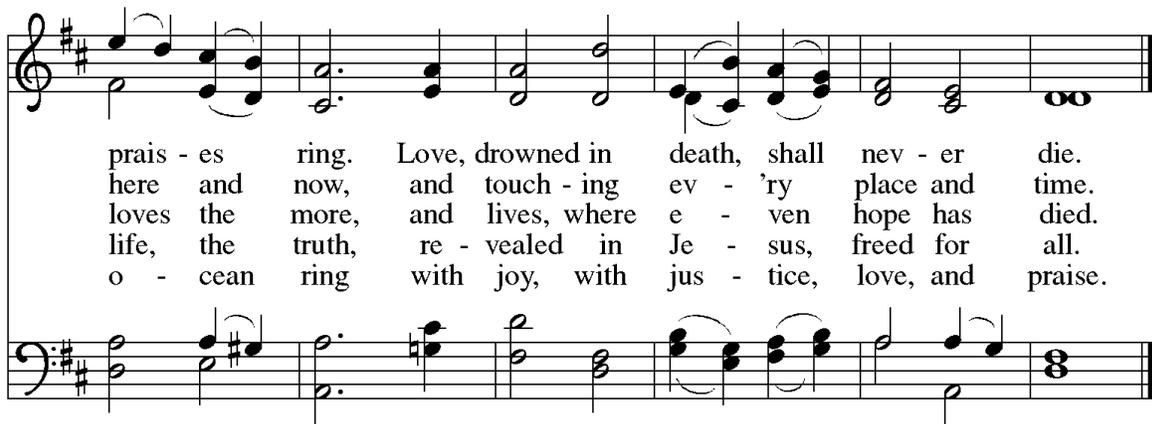
*** OPENING HYMN | #389 "CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING!" (Vs. 1-2, 4-5)**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

* GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray. *(Silence is kept to gather all for prayer.)*

C Lord, you have set the time for all things under heaven, fulfilled every promise, and filled us with just enough hope to wait with expectant hearts. Give us also just enough faith to believe your word and trust that we too will be witnesses to the ends of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

EQUIP

THE WORD— Acts 1:1-11 Jesus' Ascension

R The reading comes from the New Testament book of Acts, Chapter 1, verses 1 through 11.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In 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."

This the Good News of Jesus.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

KIDS' TIME—PASTOR KARI

SERMON—PASTOR KARI

* HYMN OF THE DAY | #825 "YOU SERVANTS OF GOD"

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

* APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH—PRAYERS & BLESSINGS FOR THE PRINCETON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020.

VIDEO OF OUR GRADS

PLEASE ADD YOUR PRAYERS TO OUR LIVEFEED COMMENTS.

P A reading from the book of Psalms, Psalm 139, verse 7: *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”*

“Where” is a mighty big word in this small reading. It comes in the form of one of those questions that, even though it's asked, the questioner assumes the answer: *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?”* And the answer is, “NO WHERE.” A sung version of this that we learned at Christikon last summer declares, “Wherever I go, YOU go.”

Graduation is, as the word implies, not the final destination for our graduates. It is only the limit of this time and place called “high school.” Graduations are transitions, a transition between what was at Princeton High School and what is yet to be in this crazy, messed up world.

So our purpose here is to equip you with prayers and blessings in preparation for what is yet to be. There is MUCH right now about which to be afraid and dismayed. But in this season of Easter, the season in which our greeting in worship is “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” we bear witness to the faith that has been ours and that we know is yours, as well, that wherever you go, God goes.

So we pray:

P Loving God, we pray for the wisdom to discern your call in our lives, for your call daily comes to each of us. In school, in work, in the military—whatever their field or endeavor—guide these graduates to a sense of their service to you through service to others and to an affirmation of dignity in their work through that service.

C Hear our prayer, O God.

P We pray for the wisdom to make healthy choices in the face of endless and confusing options.

C Hear our prayer, O God.

P We pray for grace as relationships are redefined with parents and with friends and as new relationships with new friends are formed as lives change across this milestone.

C Hear our prayer, O God.

P We pray for courage for these graduates, that they may seek to follow where you lead, O Lord, that where you lead will be to a place of care for others and for the world that you have made.

C Hear our prayer, O God.

P We lift up these prayers—offered from your people—scattered as we may be during this time.

Prayers are lifted up as they are offered from the Livestream.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend these for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Our prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC | "Psalm 139"

The Pancoasts

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves; our time; and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEND

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN | "MAY YOU RUN AND NOT BE WEARY"**

May you run and not be weary.

May your heart be filled with song.

And may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong.

And may you run and not be weary.

May your life be filled with joy!

And may the road you travel always lead you home!

*** DISMISSAL**

P Stay home in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!



OFFERING REPORT:

Income through April 2020	\$141,511.58
Payroll Protection loan	\$ 46,800.00
Expenses thru April	\$148,368.87

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

God's grace through you is a sweet, sweet thing!!

Our faithfulness to God's calling, even in this time, is to be responsible for our financial commitments, not least of which include our ministry partners (like the Synod and Camp Onomia); our buildings (including, of course, our mortgage on Trinity Crossing); and of course, our staff! We cannot be faithful to that calling without your trust and faithfulness in your generosity.

There are still any number of ways to give:

- **By Mail**—we have a reliable process for making sure that all offerings are out of the building every single day and deposited right way. It is safe, even with our mostly shuttered building.
- **By Drop Off**—Just to the right of the front doors of the church is a secure mail slot that is only accessible by lock and key on the inside of the church building. *If you must be out and about, you can drop your gifts off in the church mail slot.*
- **On-line**—You can [CLICK HERE](#) to give RIGHT NOW, if you want, and that gift can also be set-up to come in a recurring way. (This is the link you would follow from our website by clicking on the offering plate image there.) This is THE most efficient way of signing up for Simply Giving, which is administered by Vanco, one of the most secure e-commerce companies in the industry.
- **Automatic Withdrawal**—Contact your bank.
- **By App**—Both the Apple and Google Play app stores have a free app called “GivePlus.” Once downloaded to your device, simply search for “Trinity Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN”; follow the directions for registering; and set-up your giving in whatever way works for your faithful generosity, one time, recurring, or whatever.

Thank you again for supporting God's mission for us, even in these times of separation and uncertainty.

Prayer List

Members

Karen Anderson

Amy Beltrand & Family, as
they mourn the death
of Amy's mother
Dorothy Bergstrom
Ed Botzek
Jim Dery

Susan Deyle
Katey Donais
Marlene Foss
Marlys Hanson
Phil Knapp
Bruce Lacher

Tad Larsen
Del Liestmann
Jamie Lundberg
Chellis Matz
Anikka Miller
Jean Miller
Emily Nelson
Ed Peterson
Bev Reed
Warren Reed
Dina Scandinato
Cindy Schmatz
Loren Schroeder
Carol Skare
Matt Skarohlid
Brenda Smith
Anne Stevenson
Elaine Storck & family as
they mourn the loss of
her brother Leo
Overson
Eric Strandberg
Joyce Tessmer
Prudence Tessmer & family
Ardy Tourville
Carol Warner
Chuck Warner
Barb Wicktor
Russ Wicktor
Dean Winslow
Ginny Winslow

Family Members & Friends

Peter Berry (Mary Berry's
son)
Diane Boser (Friend of Dan
& Jean Anderson)
Jean Carlson (Chuck
Warner's sister)

Virg Carlson (Chuck &
Carol Warner's brother
in-law)
Caitlin Christenson (Kenny
& Joy Christenson's
daughter in-law)
Floyd Deuel (Ladonna
Olson's brother/Ken &
Carol Carling's brother-
inlaw)
Kendal Dyson (June
Kunkel's nephew)
Rachel Fadden(friend of
Ron & Judy Peterson)
Jan Gale's daughter
Jamie
Joan Gessar (Courtney
Hoppe's mother in-law)
Marian Grow (LaDonna
Olson's sister)
Shirley Heyns (Chellis Matz
sister)
Dale Kannegiesser (Elaine
Storck's friend)
Carol Kint (Ron
Peterson/Jan Dery's
sister)
Janet Kruetter (Joy
Christenson's sister)
Randall Lundgren (Debi's
Pederson's nephew)
Bryce Murphy (friend of
Marlowe Miller)
Esther Neussendorfer
(Danette Scepurek's
grandmother)
Janice Omtvedt (Ingrid
Bavier's mother)

Elliott Pancoast (Pastor
Mike's dad)
Tracy Pidde(Princeton 3rd
grade teacher)
Amanda Ridout (friend of
the Pancoast Family)
Rob Savage (Friend of the
Keller family)
Robin Schmidt (Jan
Gerth's daughter)
Andy Struthers (Maria
Barlage's brother)
Patty Thul's Sister Sheri
Stacy Turner (Marlowe &
Jean Miller's daughter)
Scott Wallin (Char
Kramersmeier's son)
Eric Webster (friend of the
Morisset family)
Ronda Wetzel (daughter
of Andrea & Ron
Sandusky)

Serving in the Military

Andrew Anderson
Andrew Barthel
Claire Barthel
Jacob Benver
Brady Beauchamp
Eden Betzler
Ronald Duresky
Riley Forland
Derek Hanson
Anthony Mandt
Zachary Morisset
Ben Noard
Parker Pedersen
Jaden Thimmesch