



---

# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

---

The Risen Lord Ascends To His Throne in Heaven



MAY 24, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

www.stmatthewsdanube.org | Pastor Mike Kuschel | home: 320-826-2280 | cell: 320-522-2428

Little Lambs Learning Center: 100 Main St. Danube, MN | office: 320-826-2340

**Prayer Before Worship:** Risen and Ascended Lord, Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us your peace and the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world. Amen.

## Opening Hymn: "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise" CW # 175

### ASCENSION

## 175 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he  
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he  
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for  
heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered  
loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing  
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious  
vail - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!  
to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.  
lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.  
all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain  
Partners in your endless reign,  
There your face unclouded view,  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW page 38**

**M:** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** Amen

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Lord Jesus, King of glory, 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.

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON - Acts 1:1-11**

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

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

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

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

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "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."

*Psalm of the Day - Psalm 47*  
**(Christian Worship, p. 85)**

***Refrain:***

***Let the people praise you, O God.***

***Let all the people praise you.***

Clap your hands, all you nations;

**Shout to God with cries of joy.**

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:***

***Let the people praise you, O God.***

***Let all the people praise you.***

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.**

## **SECOND LESSON - *Ephesians 1:16-23***

<sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**VERSE OF THE DAY:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20b)

### **Alleluia Response (sung)**

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **GOSPEL *Luke 24:44-53***

<sup>44</sup> He 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."

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

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

*The Holy Bible : New International Version. 1996, c1984 . Zondervan: Grand Rapids*

**Hymn: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!" CW # 169**

## 169

## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



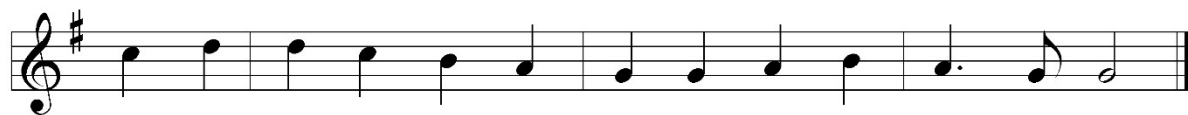
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -  
 Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend  
 Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the  
 re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, abr., alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY (87 87 D) Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, alt.

## Sermon Text: Psalm 47

*Shout to God with Cries of Joy  
 He chose our inheritance for us  
 God reigns over all the nations*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and is  
seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

**Offering:** *Please mail in your offering to the church office as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **The Ascension of Our Lord**

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, you are our Strength and our Song. You have prepared for us a well of salvation in Jesus Christ your Son, who through the eternal Spirit made himself an offering for the sins of the world. We thank you for your great mercy.

Most especially do we praise you for the life of grace and truth that Christ Jesus lived among us. We thank you that through him you have unfolded your glorious purposes and solemn designs. Move our hearts to believe all that he has taught us and to love one another as he has commanded.

Grant now, as we celebrate with joy the ascension of our Lord, that even as you have raised him to the right hand of your power and majesty, so may we ever exalt and praise him in adoration and prayer, and find in him the springs of gladness and devotion.

Lift the eyes of your Church heavenward to see him who ever lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant your people sure hope and confidence in the exceeding greatness of his power.

We pray for your mercy upon all who are afflicted in any way. Especially do we plead for your gracious help to all the sick. Give them the confidence that whatever they ask in accordance with your will, you will grant. Comfort them with the knowledge that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

***Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here***

Finally, O God, comfort us with the knowledge of our Savior's ascension, and prepare our hearts for his coming again when he will take us to be you forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, whose name is above every name. 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.**

**M:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

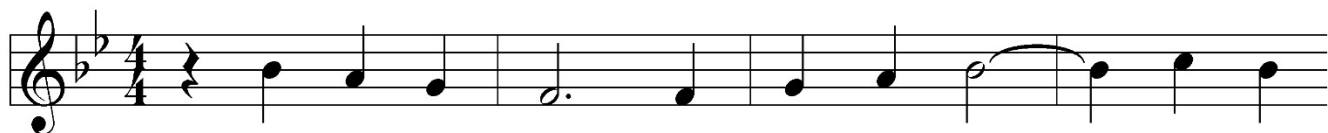
**C: Amen**

**Closing Hymn: "Draw Us to Thee" – CW # 170**



## 170

## Draw Us to Thee



1 Draw us to thee, For then shall we Walk in  
 2 Draw us to thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us  
 3 Draw us to thee; Oh, grant that we May walk  
 4 Draw us to thee That al - so we Thy heav'n -  
 5 Draw us to thee Un - ceas - ing - ly; In - to



thy steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where  
 de - part with glad - ness That we may be For -  
 the road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest  
 ly bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where  
 thy king - dom take us. Let us for - 'er Thy



thou art gone To be with thee, dear Sav - ior.  
 ev - er free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.  
 we should stray And from thy paths be driv - en.  
 sin and hell No more can vex our spir - it.  
 glo - ry share; Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642–99; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: ACH GOTT UND HERR (447 447) *As hymnodus sacer*, Leipzig, 1625, alt.

## **Announcements** - *View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.*

### **Preparations for the Reopening of Our Churches**

Your congregation leaders continue to discuss what is wise and what is in good order as we consider reopening our churches. As we seek to honor God's good and gracious will to hear his Word, his exhortation to gather, and his command to follow the guidance of the local and federal government there has been some unexpected twists and turns on the path to reopening. While restrictions were upheld against large gatherings on Wednesday, they were then loosened enough on Saturday to allow our congregations to gather for worship very soon. However, there are still a number of requirements and protocols we will be working on as prepare to meet. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and check our website this week for more information regarding the reopening of our churches for public worship. May the comfort of the risen and ascended Christ be with you during these unprecedented times. Remember that God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. And from there Christ rules over all things for the good of his Church! Alleluia!

### **Thank you for your continued support**

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

***St. Matthew's Danube***

***PO Box 67***

***Danube, MN 56230***

***St. John's Renville***

***209 Bryant Ave NE***

***PO Box 416***

***Renville, MN 56284***

***St. Matthew Flora Twp.***

***36313 Kenwood Ave***

***Redwood Falls, MN 56283***

***(temporary mailing address)***

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon.

If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 320-826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

### **Important Notice Concerning Worship and Bible Class**

Worship Services at all of our churches have been suspended until further notice due to heightened health concerns. With the restriction on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 outbreak we will be making use of our online streaming services as our primary way to meet. For important announcements and other details about how to stay connected to your local congregation and to God's Word visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

### **Stay Connected Wherever You Are:**

Please make use of local radio, television, and online ministries as we are currently unable to gather in our local congregations. **Television:**

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

### **Radio:**

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

**Online:** Join us for worship online in one of several ways: visit [www.stmatthewsdanube.org](http://www.stmatthewsdanube.org) or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

### **Other Online Resources:**

- ***wels.net*** - Daily devotions, (***new***) family devotions, and other bible study tools, updates and resources at our Synod's website. May God bless us as we walk together.
- ***timeofgrace.org*** – on demand worship services, blogs, daily devotions, podcasts and bible study materials available
- ***nph.net*** – order books, bible study and devotional materials, hymnals, Bibles, catechisms, and much more from the publication arm of our synod.
- ***forwardinchrist.net*** – WELS magazine now has on online presence. Stay connected with God's Word and your church body with news, updates, podcasts, videos, and more.

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

### **Please Call, Email, or Text for Pastoral Support**

During this time of being unable to gather at our worship facilities we want to remind you that you can reach out to Pastor Kuschel for pastoral support. Be assured that Pastor Kuschel is praying for you and that he would very much welcome your call and a chance to talk to you and pray with you over the phone. Remember that we are his Church and God cares for his children wherever you are. ***The LORD watches over you... He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. - Psalm 121***

### **Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs**

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs Learning Center as our next preschool teacher. We give thanks to God for the way that he care for his Church as he provides pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others to carry out the gospel ministry. May God bless Louisa in this time of transition and may He bring her safely to our community.

### **Catechism Class Reminders**

Pastor Kuschel will meet with catechism students who are working toward confirmation at St. John's in Renville today at 2:30pm. This will mark the resumption of in-person classes on Sundays, but we will continue to meet on Wednesdays online. This Wednesday we will meet a half an hour earlier at 5:00pm in order to accommodate for the final class for the first-year catechism students. First-year students will meet in person for a final class of the year on Wednesday from 6:00pm – 7:00pm at St. Matthew's Danube. May God bless each of these students as they grow in the training and instruction of the LORD.

### **Renville County COVID-19 Newsletter**

Renville County has been producing a COVID-19 Newsletter. Please follow the link to keep up to date with tips, suggestions, and news from the county. <https://www.renvillecountymn.com/newslist.php>