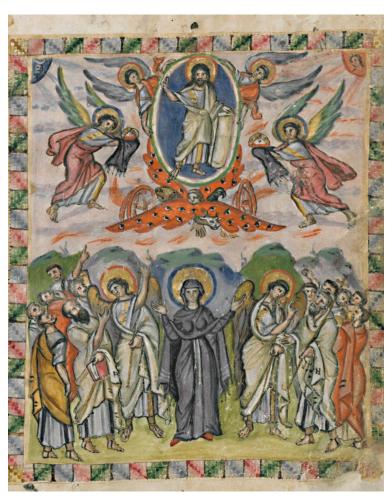


# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Ascension of our Lord, *observed*June 1, 2025



Ascension (Folio 13v, Rabbula Gospels)(c. 586) artist unkown

This striking work on paper from the Syriac Rabbula Gospels shows a seraph taking Jesus up into heaven. Jesus has his finger out, as if to make one last point before entering Heaven. Mary stands in the center and prays, while the others are scolded by the Angels for their excessive gawking instead of putting their faith into action.

# WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1751

The Rev. Hans E.

Becklin
Senior Pastor

Deaconess Deborah

Matern Graf

Deacon for

Formation

AND Service

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Cantor

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
Congregational Life
Coordinator

Peter Graf Financial Administrator

Pam Wasmuth

John McKeon Property Manager

> Dave Troche Sexton

+ + +

The Rev. Fred S.

Opalinski
PASTOR EMERITUS

Karen S. Eddinger Minister of Music Emerita



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.



CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Our worship is an act of offering. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

# The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM

Congregational words are in bold print.

After the prelude, stand in body or spirit and face the processional cross at the baptismal font.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

# PRELUDE

Prélude from Suite Médiévale

Jean Langlais

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are 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.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

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. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### GATHERING HYMN

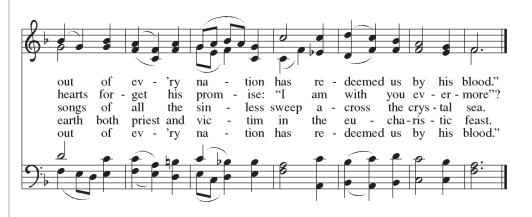
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

**ELW 392** 



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

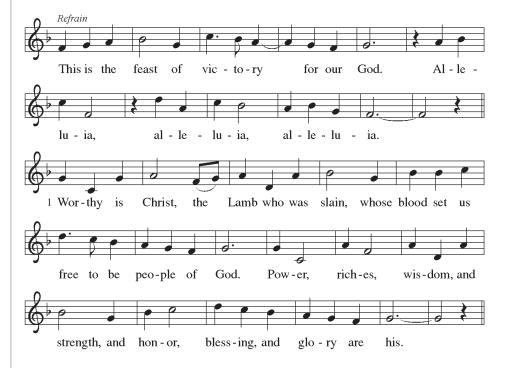
Music: HYFRYDOL Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887



### Apostolic Greeting

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

# Hymn of Praise



We praise God throughout this service using Setting Two from Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Continues on the next page...

# Hymn of Praise



This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.

Please be seated.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### FIRST READING

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

#### Acts 1:1-11

restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The choir introduces the refrain.

The congregation repeats the refrain and sings the refrain where indicated with the symbol R.

The choir and congregation sing alternating verses

# **PSALM**

Psalm 47



Clap your hands, | all you peoples; shout to God with a | joyful sound.

For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:

a great king over | all the earth,

who subdues the | peoples under us, and the nations un- | der our feet;

who chooses our inheri- | tance for us, the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R

God has gone up | with a shout, the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to | God, sing praises; sing praises to our | king, sing praises.

For God is king of | all the earth; sing praises | with a song.

God reigns o- | ver the nations;

God is en- | throned on high.

The nobles of the peoples

have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. R

#### SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his

power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

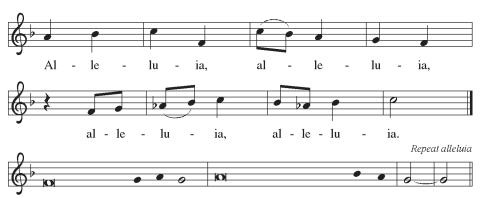
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

### TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

GOSPEL Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Brown

Director for Congregational Stewardship Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

**ELW 579** 



Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

> Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company

> Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

We confess our faith using this creed, written in 325 AD to summarize the common faith of the Church.

#### 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

The offering, bread,

and the altar is set.

and wine are brought forward PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

Greta Tomlins

Trinity Choir

# IN OUR PRAYERS

# IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- Peg Coleman • Bob Everson
- Barabra
- Dar Unger
- Gangewere
- Raymond Donald

Diesinger

# TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Robert &
- Millie, Collin & Rashi Flatt
- Katherine Eynon • Michael Faust
- Harry Feinauer
- Christie, Kyrie,
- Jordan, Holly & Christopher Fisher

# Ongoing Needs

- Harry Feinauer • Linda Motley
- Darryl Jeffries
- Nancy Souders-
- Negri & Fred Negri
- Walter Schur
- the Sawyer family • Yadar (friend of Pat McMahon)
- Donna Osborne
  - Peggy Bobb
- Joyce (friend of Linda Motley)

- Cathy Kirckoff (sister of Pat
  - McMahon)
- Hildegard Pohl (sister of Amy
- Barrett) David Unruh
- (brother of Ralph Unruh)
- Susan Templin (cousin of Robin
  - Oberholtzer) Nancy Zweig
    - 13

Please stand in body or spirit.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

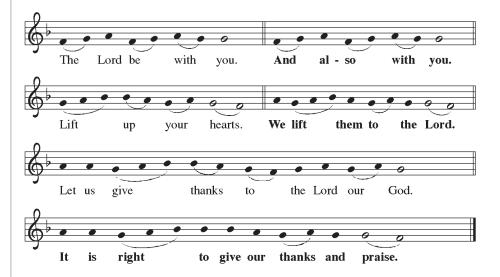
Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presider greets the assembly and invites all to give thanks.

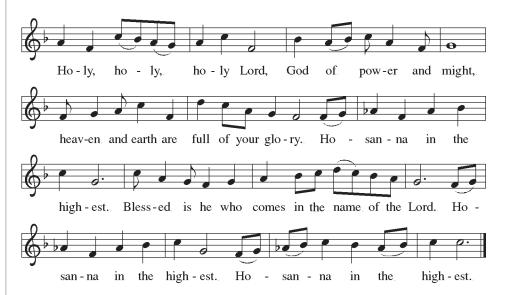


### PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### SANCTUS



During the Words of Institution, the bread and wine are elevated for the congregation to revere and adore Christ's presence in our midst.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty, O God most merciful... Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal... life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

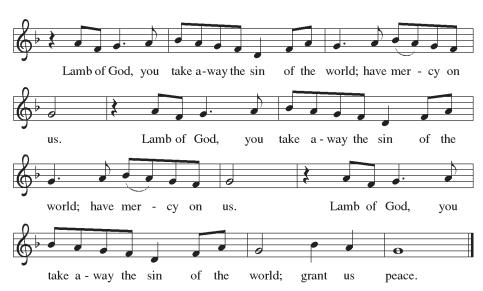
Please be seated.

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.

### Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

### LAMB OF GOD



This hymn can be Music During Distribution found in the red You Servants of God hymnal (ELW). TABLE BLESSING Please stand in body or spirit. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of BLESSING The triune God. As a sign of God's who was, who is, and who is to come, blessing, you may Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, make the sign light your way with resurrection dawn, of the cross. now and always. Amen. SENDING HYMN Hymn printed on the following page (18). A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing DISMISSAL

your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

**ELW 825** 

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Acclamations from Suite Médiévale

Jean Langlais 17

**ELW 393** 

Face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.

#### SENDING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

**ELW 393** 



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives

To whom the shin-ing an-gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up-on the "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the

5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac-



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un ring: stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less cord:



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le see re - turn-ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

> Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

#### Communion Instructions



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

# LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Cantor
Lector
Communion Assistant
Acolyte
Greeter

Pr. Hans E. Becklin Albert Pohl Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Amy Norton-Ritz Doris Strobel Declan Rosenbaum Mae Sunderland USHERS Cecilia, Josh & Christine Motley
MEDIA TEAM Amy Bornhofen, Grace Norton-Ritz
ALTAR GUILD Linda Grim, Erica Hofmann,
Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody, Doris Strobel
WORSHIP PLANNERS Program Staff

Worship Sponsors

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

Dick & Connie Bashore in memory of our parents, Mildred & Clarence Kline. Helen & Norman Bashore

Virginia Biniek to the glory of God

Attendance Sunday, May 25: 82 Attendance Wednesday, May 21: 12

#### Sources and Permissions

# Sunday, June 1

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

Coffee & Conversation - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

7:30 рм

YOUTH SERVICE/MISSION TRIP MEETING St. John's Lutheran, Mohnton

# Monday, June 2

1:00 рм

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

# Tuesday, June 3

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

# Wednesday, June 4

5:30 PM

CHOIR & BELL PARTY - Offsite

# SUNDAY, JUNE 8

9:00 ам

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room

10:00 AM

PENTECOST WORSHIP WITH RITE OF CONFIRMATION - Nave

11:15 AM

RECEPTION FOR CONFIRMANDS
All Saints Room

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

#### STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.