

# Ascension of Our Lord (Transferred) Sunday, May 16th, 2021



## Prelude

## Announcements

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW # 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the dominion of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, Jesus 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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the dominion to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "You Galileans, 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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 47**

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

<sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>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 highly exalted.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray 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 God, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe, according to the working of God's great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand of Power in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And God has put all things under the feet of Christ and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

The gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said,] "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."<sup>45</sup>Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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."

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Homily**

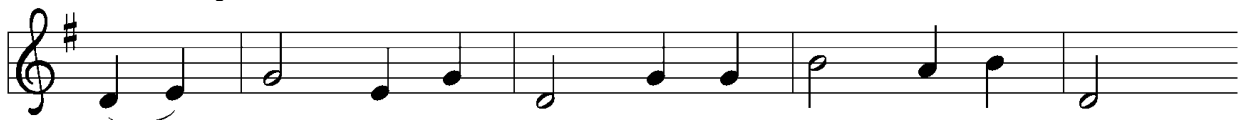
## Reflection

The two men are right. Do not stand looking into the skies as if Jesus has gone away. The crucified and risen one has ascended to the throne of God. And where is that? Everywhere, for God's power fills all things. Jesus has ascended into the cosmos. But, in this long time of sickness and death and loss, that may not be easy to see. Rather, we can see Jesus Christ in the places where he is there for us: in the scriptures that he opens our mind to understand; in the Spirit of wisdom that he pours out on us, enabling us to hope; and in the love of the community which is his body. As Martin Luther has said, Jesus has ascended to be with us and for us. Then we need to be with and for other people, at least in our prayer and support.

## \*Hymn of the Day

### *How Firm a Foundation*

ELW # 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

### **\*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.**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

Let us join one another in prayer.

O God, your might upholds the cosmos, and your love sustains your people. To you, enthroned on high and enthroned in our hearts, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That the church be enlivened to be the body of Christ, That bishops, pastors, and deacons lead with wisdom, And that all the baptized be witnesses to your glory, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That the earth be preserved from disastrous weather, That animals be safeguarded, And that plants be nurtured for their fruit and beauty, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That wars between nations and violence within each population cease, That the leaders of nations enact justice for their people, And that all persons enjoy equal rights and respectful treatment, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That those with coronavirus be healed, That physicians and nurses be supported, That the vaccines be shared around the globe, And that future waves of the pandemic be averted, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That the poor be fed and clothed, That refugees find a home, And that the sick and the suffering receive wholeness and hope, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That children be taught about the splendid cosmos you created, That scientists be upheld in their explorations of the universe, And that believers be blessed by the mystery of the Ascension, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That our private sorrows and joys be welcomed by you . . .we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

That at the end we join with all the saints in your everlasting kingdom, we pray: **Be with us in power and mercy.**

O God, receive our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, ascended for us, and reigning in your glory now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **\*Liturgy of Holy Communion for In-Person Worship**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **\*The Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

##### **\*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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil, For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn***Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW # 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

**\*Blessing****\*Sending Hymn***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

ELW # 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.  
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615  
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## **\*Benediction**

May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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*We will only join for fellowship on Zoom (596-621-1441, 8675309) if the in-person gathering is cancelled for rain and the service is live streamed in real time.*

*There will be no weekday worship online or in-person this week, including no Wednesday evening worship.*

*There will be no office hours for Pastor Traci this week. She may be reached on her cell phone (814-935-9267); please leave a message and wait for a break in her continuing education sessions so she can return your call.*

## **Hikers & Confirmands**

10 AM Saturday, May 22nd is our second Holy Hike of the year. Meet at the far left of the main parking area at Canoe Creek State Park. The hike is a little over a mile on gentle terrain; we will celebrate a service of scripture and communion over the course of the hike, which should take us a little over an hour. Lunch (hotdogs & snacks) will follow for our new and returning catechism students and their families to get to know one another (St. James Huntingdon & St. Luke Roaring Spring catechism families will be joining us).

**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.**

## **Office Hours This Week:**

**Monday-Wednesday:**9AM to Noon (Lori)

**Thursday-Friday:**9AM to Noon (Laura)

## **May Worship Schedule**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:**9AM Sanctuary, 10:30 AM Fellowship Hall

**2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday:**9AM outdoors (recorded and then uploaded)

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** 10:30 AM at Kreider's Farm; brown bag lunch after

**Wednesdays:** 6:30 PM Sanctuary (except 5/19/21, there will be no worship service.)

## **THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)**

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

**Deadline** to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

### **USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

**Staff Meeting** is scheduled at the church on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

### **Mark your Calendars: Sunday Worship at Camp Sequanota, June 13th**

On Sunday, June 13th, we will gather for worship at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA. Weather-permitting, we'll meet at the Luther League chapel (transportation up the hill is available); in case of rain, we'll use the large pavilion by the large athletic field (follow signs). Worship will begin at 11AM; please arrive a little early if you'll need a golf cart ride up to the chapel. Lunch (BYOLunch) will be immediately following worship at the large pavilion. We will provide beverages, s'mores, and a fire (you can bring your own over-the-fire food if you want to cook). This will be the day of Sequanota's benefit donors' picnic; the pool will be open and available to you in the afternoon. Stay for worship, worship and lunch, worship, lunch, and swimming, or register for the benefit picnic and stay all day. Have extra seats in your vehicle and want to provide a ride? Call the church office. Need a seat in someone's vehicle and want to accept a ride? Also call the church office.

## **Inservice for Adults Volunteering with Children and Youth**

The Staff Support Committee is sponsoring two educational sessions at the church on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 10:00 am and at 11:30 am for adults volunteering with the children and youth of our St. Matthew community. Any adult, whether they have or have not volunteered in the past, who desires to volunteer is requested to attend. We will be providing education about the updates for our St. Matthew's Child Protection Policy including identifying and reporting child abuse. This will be an opportunity to complete necessary forms to secure or renew background checks that are required this year. If you have a Pennsylvania State Police criminal background clearance and a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance that are current and do not expire in 2021, please bring copies to the session. A packet of information for both new and previous volunteers will be available in the Church office prior to the inservice. If you have any questions about whether you should attend or about the content of the inservice, please contact Kaye Burket at 814-224-5224 or Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Janet Kreider, Harry Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Jim Brower, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Dan Hershberger, Jere Hess, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Bob Kensinger, Anna Klepser, Kirk Kling, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Chuck McGeary, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Kevin Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Connie Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Peggy Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

**Specialist Training in the Army:** Nathan Smith

## **WORSHIP AT THE KREIDER FARM SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M.**

followed by brown bag picnic in the pavilion (In the event of rain, outdoor services will not be in-person, but will be live-streamed at 9 AM.)

**Directions:** From Martinsburg, take 164 East to Fredericksburg. Turn **left** on Clover Creek road and follow for 2¾ miles to Kreider Lane on the right.



## Home Communion Visits

Pastor Traci is available for home communion visits, either inside for those fully vaccinated or outside for those not fully vaccinated. To schedule, please call the office or cell (814-935-9267).



CONGRATULATIONS graduate! You have reached a major milestone in your academic career. Please submit your information by email or mail so we can help you celebrate your accomplishments. Please attach a photo.

**Deadline for the information is Monday, May 24, 2021.**

**Worship & Music Committee** is still in need of an Acolyte Leader. All that are interested should contact Jane Fagans at: [jfagans@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jfagans@atlanticbb.net)

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw.

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