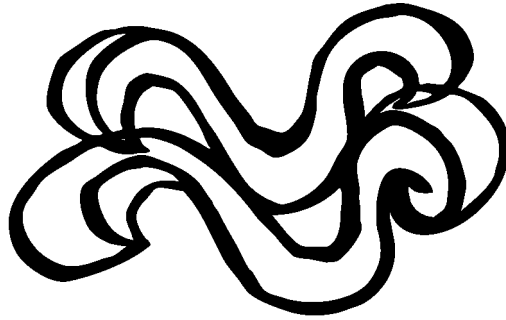


*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



MAY 13, 2021  
The Ascension of Our Lord

*In today's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

**GREETING**    *2 Corinthians 13:14*

P Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

**C The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia!**

P Sing praises to God, sing praises!

**C Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

P The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand."

**C The Lord is high above all nations; his glory above the heavens!**

P He came forth from the Father, and has come into the world.

**C Again he leaves the world and goes to the Father.**

P Alleluia! He ascends with the Father, my God and your God.

**C He will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**    *Ruth 2:4*

P Let us pray

**C 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:] 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 he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>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; <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 kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own 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 he 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, "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."

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 47** (*read in unison*)

**Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy.**

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great king over all the earth.**

**He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.**

**He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

**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 all your skill.**

**God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.**

**The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.**

**The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he 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 him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>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, > <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 he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>44</sup>[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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <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 he 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

C 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.



## LITANY FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

P Let us pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at his ascension seated him at the right hand of power and glory in the heavens.

*(Pause)*

P O God, Creator of the world, who blesses us in every way and provides for our daily need:

**C Have mercy and hear us.**

P O God, Redeemer of the world, who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead to sit at your right hand in glory so that we might have an advocate in heaven:

**C Have mercy and hear us.**

P O God, Sanctifier of the world, who sends the Holy Spirit that we might be made holy in faith and through the remembrance of all that our ascended Lord has taught us:

**C Have mercy and hear us.**

P Holy Trinity, One God:

**C Give ear to our prayers and supplications.**

P For your only Son, who lived and died that we might have eternal life with you:

**C We give you thanks, O Lord.**

P For his glorious resurrection and the proclamation of the gospel of his holy name:

**C We give you thanks, O Lord.**

P For his ascension into heaven where you have placed all things in heaven and on earth under his dominion:

**C We give you thanks, O Lord.**

P For his promise that he has gone to prepare a place for us:

**C We give you thanks, O Lord.**

P For the promise of the angels that he will return in the same way that we saw him go into heaven:

**C We give you thanks, O Lord.**

P Baptized into his name, we are your humble servants, O God.

**C Hear the words of our petitions:**

P That we who are raised with Christ may set our hearts on things above, not on things below.

**C Conform us to Christ.**

P That we, the people of the Erie Lutheran Parish, might be filled with the promised Holy Spirit and inspired to proclaim Christ's resurrection and ascension in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**C Conform us to Christ.**

P That, keeping his commandments, we might abide in him and He in us.

**C Conform us to Christ.**

P That we might be found faithful and blameless through repentance and the forgiveness of sins when he returns in glory.

**C Conform us to Christ.**

P That, at the last, we may stand around his heavenly throne and sing his eternal praises with all the angelic host;

**C Conform us to Christ.**

>

P Let all your angels worship him, O God.

**C Bend every knee in heaven and on earth at the sound of his holy name.**

P He is our high priest and intercessor in the heavens.

**C He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

P Almighty God, all your works are glorious. But none is more glorious than the work of your Son, our ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. As you raised him from the dead and seated him at your right hand in power, so keep us ever close to his resurrection and ascension, that we too might be raised and seated with him in your heavenly kingdom; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.   *Romans 16:16***

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C 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.   *Matthew 6:9***

### **BLESSING FOR ASCENSION DAY**

P May almighty God bless you with the knowledge that his only Son has ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you.

**C Amen.**

P May you be lifted up and guided by Christ's intercession at God's right hand.

**C Amen.**

P At Christ's promised return, may you be found blameless and welcomed into the joys of God's eternal kingdom.

**C Amen.**

P And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. *(sung)*

**C Amen.**

## **HISTORY OF ASCENSION TAPESTRY**

In 1928 the Cenchrean Circle of Luther Memorial asked the privilege of presenting a tapestry to hang on the wall above the altar. Judge William E. Hirt was planning a trip to New York and was requested to investigate the matter. At the Museum of Fine Arts he was directed to the Edgewater Beach Looms and there met the owner, Mr. Lauritz Kleiser, a Norwegian Lutheran. Mr. Kleiser came to Erie and setting up his easel in the church, painted a small representation of the Ascension, the subject selected for the tapestry. This he took to his studios in New York where he reproduced it in a cartoon the size of the present tapestry. Over this, as a pattern, the weavers, all of them Belgians whose families had followed this vocation, wove the beautiful creation which hangs above the altar. The fabric is made of Australian wool and Japanese silk, the halos are 18k gold thread, and the colors are fadeless vegetable dyes. It was unveiled September 19, 1928 as a progressive memorial to the Cenchrean Circle.