

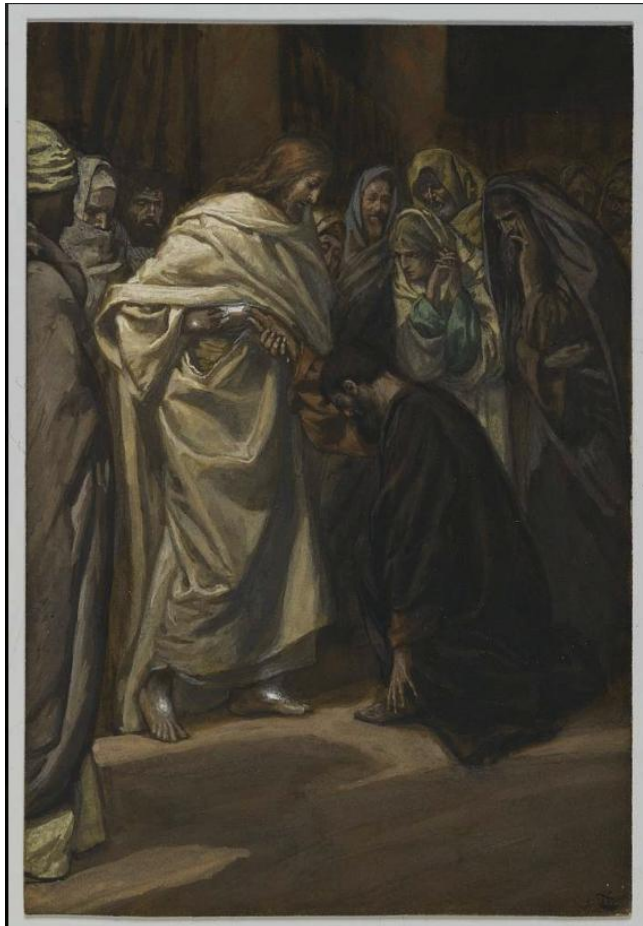
Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

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Phone: 248.644.8890 **Web:** www.ascensionofchrist.org

The Reverend Lawrence K. Loree, Pastor

*A member congregation of The English District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



The Disbelief of Saint Thomas, James Tissot, 1886-1894, Brooklyn Museum

QUASIMODO GENITI

April 12, 2026

+IN THE NAME OF JESUS+

WELCOME to the Divine Service at Ascension of Christ! We pray that you will be richly blessed by God as you hear His Word, receive His gifts and worship Him with your prayer and praise!


TO OUR GUESTS Welcome, we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter if you have any questions. Be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor. We invite you to consider Ascension of Christ if you are looking for a church home. We gather every Sunday morning for Adult Bible Study at 9:00 a.m., the Divine Service at 10:15 a.m., and Fellowship Hour and Sunday School following the Divine Service.

CHILDREN AT ASCENSION At Ascension, we want you to feel at home. First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome here! To make it easier on your family, please dare to sit closer to the front where your children can easily see what's going on, note the colors, watch the pastors, wonder about those heads on the lectern, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here is for them, too! As we go through the Divine Service, encourage them to join in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy. And with your spirit. I believe! Our Father!* And please be sure to sing and pray your parts too! Children learn by following your lead. There are some busy bags in the back of the church for you and if you must take your children out of the church, please hurry back!

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS JOYFULLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood into our mouths. His gift of body and blood given in, with, and under the bread and wine, bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation. **All members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its blessings and so are encouraged to commune.** When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, just as Jesus asks, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy. **If you are a guest** and would like to learn more about the practice of the Lord's Supper at Ascension of Christ, or if you are uncertain about whether you should receive the Lord's Supper, **please speak with Pastor Loree before communing for the first time.**

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER *The Wounds of Christ Give Us Life* "For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood" (1 John 5:7). These three point to Christ and flow from Christ. Jesus shows His disciples His hands side, from which blood and water flowed, saying "Peace be with you." He presents the wounds which turn our fear to gladness and which restore us to the Father. Jesus breathes on His disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:23). His breath, His words are Spirit and life. They raise up our dry, dead bones and give us new and everlasting life (Ezek. 37:1-14). Christ now gives His ministers to speak His forgiving, Spirit-filled words to the penitent in His stead. Our Lord continues to come to His people, presenting His wounds to us in the Sacraments of water and blood. He bids us to touch His side at His table, to receive His risen body and blood in true faith, that believing we may have life in His name.

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

Please note the  symbol is used to indicate a sung response.

PRELUDE

Please stand and the face baptismal font

PROCESSIONAL HYMN WELCOME, HAPPY MORNING

TLH 202



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" Age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and Re - deem - er, Life and Health of all,
3 Thou, of life the Au - thor, Death didst un - der - go,
4 Loose the souls long pris - oned, Bound with Sa - tan's chain;



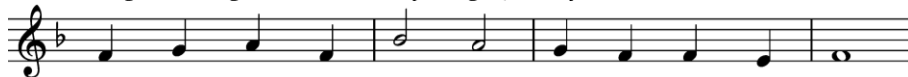
"Hell to - day is van-quished, Heav'n is won to - day!"
Thou from heav'n be - hold - ing Hu - man na - ture's fall,
Tread the path of dark - ness, Sav - ing strength to show.
All that now is fall - en Raise to life a - gain.



Lo, the Dead is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
Of the Fa - ther's God - head, True and on - ly Son,
Come, then, True and Faith - ful, Now ful - fil Thy word;
Show Thy face in bright - ness, Bid the na - tions see;



Him, their true Cre - a - tor, All His works a - dore.
Man - hood to de - liv - er Man - hood didst put on.
'Tis Thine own third morn - ing— Rise, O bur - ied Lord
Bring a - gain our day - light; Day re - turns with Thee.



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" Age to age shall say;
"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" Age to age shall say;
"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" Age to age shall say;
"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" Age to age shall say;



"Hell to - day is van-quished, Heav'n is won to - day!"
"Hell to - day is van-quished, Heav'n is won to - day!"
"Hell to - day is van-quished, Heav'n is won to - day!"
"Hell to - day is van-quished, Heav'n is won to - day!"

INVOCATION & EXHORTATION

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Kneel/Stand

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



INTROIT

Psalm 81:1, 7a, 10, 16b; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2a



Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*
long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.
Sing aloud to | God our strength;*
shout for joy to the God of | Jacob!
In distress you called, and I de- | livered you;*
I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.
I am the | LORD your God,*
who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it;*
and with honey from the rock I would sat- | isfy you.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*
long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



HYMN OF PRAISE

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C *And with your spirit.*

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:4-10a

⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there

are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has dominion | over him.*

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet | have believed.

Alleluia (repeated)

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*


¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when

they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from

anyone, it is withheld." ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do

not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C  **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

(back of the hymnal)

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

LSB 470

SERMON

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS & OFFERINGS+

Stand/Kneel

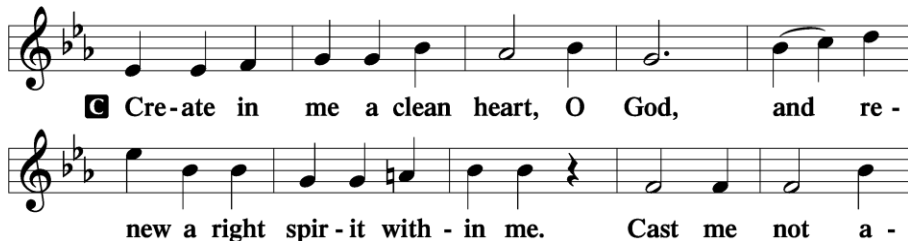
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

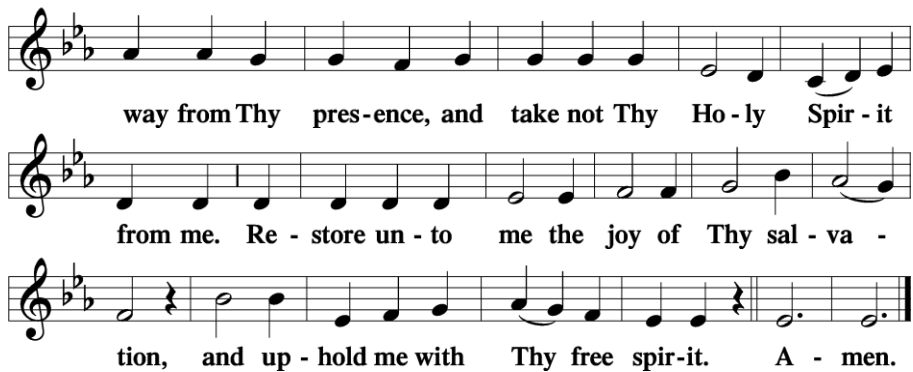
OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY






C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

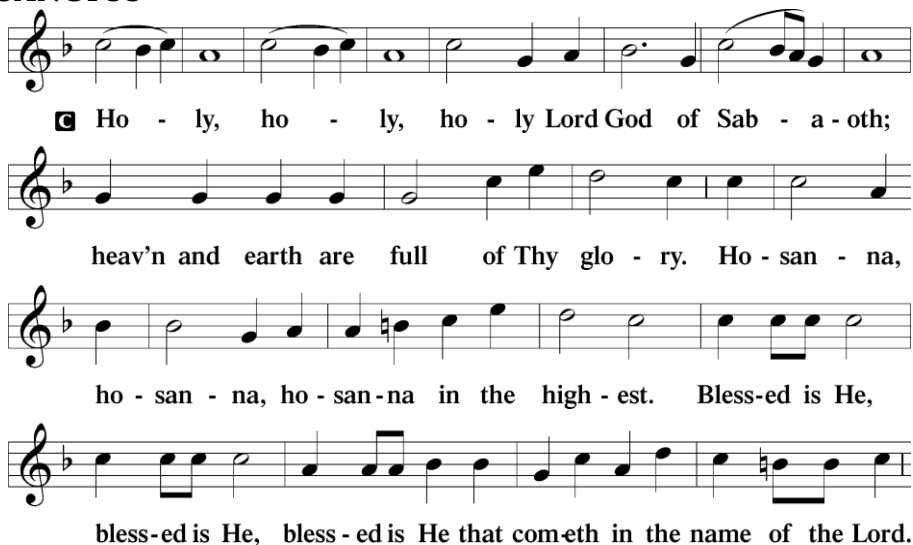
+GOD GIVES A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C**  And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C**  We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C**  It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE STRIFE IS O'ER THE BATTLE DONE

LSB 464

HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN

LSB 480

I AM CONTENT! MY JESUS EVER LIVES

LSB 468

DISMISSAL *Stand*

P The true body and precious blood of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

- C** *♪* Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the
face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C *♪* and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this
salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
C *♪* Amen.

+GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE+

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C *♪* And with thy spirit.
P Bless we the Lord.
C *♪* Thanks be to God.
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C *♪* Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

+TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY+