

Ascension Day in the Lutheran Confessions

Augsburg Confession: Article III: It is also taught among us that:

God the Son...ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, that he may eternally rule and have dominion over all creatures, that through the Holy Spirit he may sanctify, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, that he may bestow on them life and grace and blessing, and that he may protect and defend them against the devil and against sin.

The same Lord Christ will return openly to judge the living and the dead, as thus stated in the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who...ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Martin Luther on the 2nd Article of Apostles' Creed – Large Catechism

If asked what you believe concerning Jesus Christ, answer:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord.

But what is it to become Lord? It is this:

He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and all evil.

For before I had no Lord nor King, but was captive under the power of the devil, condemned to death, enmeshed in sin and blindness. For when we had been created by God the Father, and had received from Him all manner of good, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil, so that we fell under His wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, as we had merited and deserved.

There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God in His unfathomable goodness had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness, and came from heaven to help us.

Those tyrants and jailers, then, are all expelled now, and in their place has come Jesus Christ: **Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation, and has delivered us poor lost men from the jaws of hell, has won us, made us free, and brought us again into the favor and grace of the Father, and has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection, that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.**

Yes, the entire Gospel which we preach is based on this, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rest, and which is so rich and comprehensive that we never can learn it fully.



Ascension Day May 29, 2025

**Please stand as you are able*

Invocation/Call to Worship: [The Lord says:] **“My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd...My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.”**

Opening Prayer

(Ezekiel 37:24,27)

* Opening Hymn – *The Head That Once Was Crowned* Red **#123**

Prayer of Confession: **Dear Heavenly Father, in humility we confess that we have sinned against You in our words, actions and our thoughts. We ask for Your forgiveness and seek Your great mercy. We come to You in the merits of Jesus Christ, not our own. Look not on our sins, but wash us in the blood of Jesus Christ so that we may be clean before You. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

Prayers of the Church

Hymn – *One Day!* Red **#156**

Confession of Faith – Responsive reading from Lutheran Confessions (back)

Isaiah 49:5-7

Old Testament

Psalms 47

Responsive Reading

* Luke 24:45-53

* Gospel

Hymn – *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* Red **#118**

Revelation 1:1-8

Epistle Lesson

Sermon: Pastor Barry Nelson – *The Witness and the Ruler*

* Closing Hymn – *On Our Way Rejoicing* Red **#248**

*Lord's Prayer: **Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy king-dom 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.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Amen.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Today's Readings

May 29, 2025

The Ascension of Our LORD

Old Testament

Isaiah 49:5-7

And now the LORD says—

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—⁶ he says:
“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

⁷ This is what the LORD says—

the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:
“Kings will see you and stand up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Responsive Reading

Psalms 47

¹ Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

² **For the LORD Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.**

³ He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

⁴ **He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**

⁵ God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

⁸ **God reigns over the nations;**

God is seated on his holy throne.

⁹ The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

Gospel

Luke 24:45-53

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

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

Sermon Text: Epistle

Revelation 1:1-8

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”

and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;

and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”