



# Alive

He Rules For the Church



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## Ascension Sunday

*Alive: He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Jesus prays for you, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me (John 17:20-23a)."

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to wonder who oversees the world. At times the world seems so chaotic. People claim to be in charge but they have limited power and strange ideas. Many of the ideas are harmful for Christians. Leaders seem to lead without acknowledging Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is head over everything for the Church. At the time of Ascension, he takes his proper place. The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** Life is full of either/or moments. Some matter more, and some matter less. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Since Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead, if he were to remain dead he would be both a failure and a fraud. If Christ had not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50 day celebration of that fact.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen

Organ/Piano: Robyn Stoller, Abigail Ibisch

Praise Group: Renee Nair, Leah Bergemann, Marilyn Thomforde, Al Sehloff, Tom Stob, Jessie Wolfe, Jacob Olson, Brian Shult

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

CW 474 sts. 1-4



1 Hail the day that sees him rise to his  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; lift your  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, yet he  
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; see, he



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for  
heads, e - ter - nal gates! He has con - quered  
loves the earth he leaves; though re - turn - ing  
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious



sin - ners giv'n, re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
death and sin; take the King of glo - ry in!  
to his throne, still he calls the world his own.  
lips be - stow bless - ings on his Church be - low.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

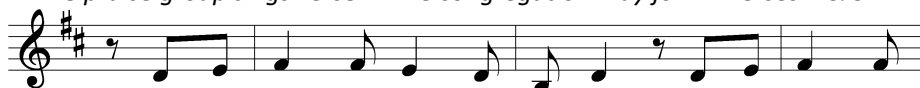
M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Across the Lands

CW 549

*The praise group sings verse 1. The congregation may join in verses 2 & 3.*



1 You're the Word of God the Fa-ther from be-fore the  
2 Yet you left the gaze of an-gels, came to seek and  
3 With a shout you rose vic-to-rious, wrest-ing vic-t'ry



world be-gan. Ev-'ry star and ev-'ry plan-et has been  
save the lost, and ex-changed the joy of heav-en for the  
from the grave, and as-cend-ed in-to heav-en, lead-ing



fash-ioned by your hand. All cre-a-tion holds to-  
an-guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the  
cap-tives in your way. Now you stand be-fore the



geth-er by the pow-er of your voice. Let the skies de-  
hun-gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si-lent-  
Fa-ther, in-ter-ced-ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo-ry, let the land and seas re-joice!  
ly you suf-fered that the guilt-y may go free!  
tongue and na-tion you are lead-ing sin-ners home!

### *Refrain*



You're the au-thor of cre-a-tion, you're the Lord of ev-'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a-cross the lands.

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **First Reading**

*Acts 1:1-11*

*Jesus ascends to rule over all things as his church serves as his witnesses.*

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

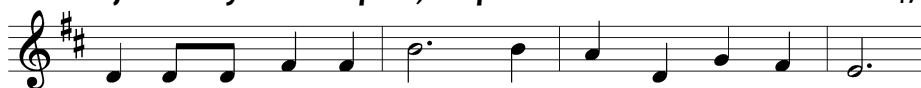
<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: All Peoples, Clap Your Hands

Psalm 47D



1 All peo - ples, clap your hands, and shout with joy and sing.  
2 God has gone up on high, with shout and trum - pet voice;  
3 No - bles from all the earth are joined with A - bram's seed;



The LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the earth's great King.  
sing praise to God, our glo - rious King, sing praise to him, re - joice!  
the rul - ers of the world are God's; he's lift - ed high in - deed!



He brings the na - tions down, sub - dues them in our sight;  
For God is King of all. Sing praise with all your skill;  
So to the Fa - ther raise, with his as - cend - ed Son,



he choos - es our in - her - it - ance; his love is Ja - cob's might.  
he sits up - on his ho - ly throne and rules the na - tions still.  
and Ho - ly Spir - it end - less praise, e - ter - nal Three in One.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

*Jesus ascended to fill all creation with his presence and power for a very specific purpose.*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:18



*Refrain*



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

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. *Refrain*

## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

*Before he ascends, Jesus promises to send the disciples power from on high to carry out the mission of the church.*

<sup>44</sup>He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

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

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

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

# Hymn of the Day: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 472 sts. 1-4



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -  
and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -  
"This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his  
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



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

## Sermon

Based on Luke 24:44-53

### "The King's Mission Continues"

Please stand after the sermon.

# THANKSGIVING

## ***Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## ***Offering***



*Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.*

*We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.*



*Please stand.*

## ***Prayer of the Church***

### ***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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.


The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.


C: Amen.

## Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing


CW 472 sts. 5-6



5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our  
6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
you let earth ac - cord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we shall praise your  
You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther



name e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



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

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### The Salem Minute

## Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

### **For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: Alive: He Pours Out His Spirit

Bible Readings: Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3-11, John 7:37-39

Hymns: 588, 898, 669, 593, 617

### **Salem's Organ Turns 100!**

Next weekend, May 23–24, we celebrate a milestone: Salem's beloved pipe organ turns 100 years old! Dedicated on May 30, 1926, our two-manual Möller pipe organ has faithfully served Salem's worship for a century, surviving a move to our current building in 1962, several expansions, and even a blower motor rebuild earlier this year. In honor of this anniversary, two pieces from the organ's original 1926 dedication recital - Bach's *Air on a G String* and Handel's *Largo from Xerxes* - will be played as pre-service music, and "Old Hundredth" will be our closing hymn. A hymn festival is also being planned for this fall. Watch for details! Many thanks to organist Robyn Stoller for arranging some celebrations to mark this milestone.

Is anyone among  
you in trouble?

Let them *pray*.

Is anyone happy?

Let them *praise*.

■ JAMES 5:13

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *For our guests*

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## *For those with young children*

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

